









IN BRIEF

troops on Golan

U.S. Secretary of State... sending U.S. troops to... Golan Heights. "It's... interests of the... Television in an... modalities could be... it to be seriously... Shakh Rabin has said... the strategic plateau... Republican senators... would risk American... President George B... said U.S. forces were... East is important, not... countries around the... more appropriate on a... in security forces," he said.

Arab summer camp

investigating a summer... Bank that offers Israeli... lectures. Israel's education... ministry of education... it on to the police... will operate in this... Rubinstein told Israel's... week 15 boys aged 11 to... ons and attended lectures... each organisation at... a, a Jewish settlement... and a related organisation... settler from Kiryat Arba... as at a mosque in Hebron... been a member of Kach... he denied breaking the... of Rabbi Meir Kahane... is not illegal, Kahane... Arabs from Israel and... of Kach.

prince ordered seized

Kuala Lumpur has ordered... of the brother of the King... visiting Israel. Prime... day reported as saying, Mr... ided on Wednesday to see... Rahman, who admitted... three-day trip last month... issue in Israel. "The we... issue although it was not... issues his passport, we... air was reported in the... eastern Trengganu state... know whether the pr... by the authorities. Prime... old younger brother of K... Rahman, returned he... said Friday that the p... not want to issue any

ammes of hashish

United Arab Emirates... kilograms of hashish... ing two Asians for... reported. The drugs... off the emirate of Shar... Gulf Arab country, a... police raids resulted in... ing two Asians inside... fying those arrested or... nd biggest drug haul... irates making up the UAE... ree tonnes of hashish... in the Gulf of Oman... acted in the operation... Saudi Arabia in introduc... traffickers but nobody

n sailors' killings

state television late Thu... an Algerian man. Dem... the killing of seven Ital... other people shown in... bers of an armed Islam... murdering two Algeri... r was accused of being... ibered the circumstances... mic fundamentalists kil... oarding their boat. One... of the Italians, cutting... nd feet while they slept... d the head of the group.

cheating student

let students see exami... who drew jail terms and... scandal, lawyers said... outstaid, in charge of... lity of Medicine, slipped... ,000 dirhams (\$1,111) and... sentenced to four years... (\$555) while the other... e same fine and lesser... appeal also gave 17 othe... ispending sentences and... wyers said.



**REGENT AT FRIDAY PRAYERS:** His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, attends Friday prayers at Shuweih Mosque in Aqaba. The Regent listened to the sermon delivered by Director of the Aqaba Awqaf Department Sheikh Fahad Al Salai'in. The sermon focussed on the need to maintain unity and adhere to the guidance of the holy Koran. Sheikh Salai'in called for safeguarding unity and preventing any attempts to tamper with it. He lauded His Majesty King Hussein's step to establish a just, lasting and honourable peace that future generations will accept, describing the move as courageous and daring and enjoying the blessing of the Umma. The preacher said that the Hashemite leadership has dedicated itself to serving the nation, and its just causes and to restoring Arab rights not only in Jordan but also in Palestine. The three Hashemite restorations of the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa stand witness to the endless Hashemite giving and dedication, he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- \* Concert by George Wassouf at the South Theatre at 20:30.
- \* Performance by the Palestinian Popular Arts Group at the Artemis Theatre at 19:30.
- \* Children's "Happy Prince" play at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00.
- \* Musical performance by Inad and Frances Battayeh at the Garasia Theatre at 19:30.
- \* Play entitled "On The Other Side" at the Garasia Theatre at 20:45.

PLAY

- \* Play in Arabic entitled "A Black Comedy" by Majid Al Qasbi at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

LECTURE

- \* Lecture in Arabic entitled "Women in Proverbs" by Dr. Jumania Taha at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabel Amman at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of Chinese products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Oil painting and ceramic exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Al 'Ain Art Gallery, Wadi Saqra (Tel. 64451).
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Reem Lutfi at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, Gardens St. (Tel. 695291).
- \* Exhibition of paintings by Omar Hamdan Shalman at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabel Laveibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- \* Exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabel Laveibdeh, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630128).
- \* Exhibition by artist Bishara Al Najjar at the Orient Gallery for Fine Arts, Gardens Str. (Tel. 698513).



Rock artists of the Dead Sea Fishing Club perform at the Gerasia Theatre of Creativity at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts (Photo by Youssef Al 'Alban)

Dead Sea Fishing Club tries to foot the bill

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Although the Dead Sea Fishing Club attracted the largest audience among all other festivals of Garasia Theatre of Creativity Thursday night at the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts, the group failed to present what was billed on the programme.

Garasia Theatre Director Mohammad Mashariqa promised the public to introduce oriental blues, a mix of oriental blues of rock'n'roll, but the Dead Sea Fishing Club pull that sound together and instead presented normal rock'n'roll throwing in an oriental chord here and there.

The Jordanian band, established in 1993, plays

the loud exciting sounds of their preferred rock artists, such as: Aerosmith, The Beatles, Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, The Eagles, Elvis Presely, Eric Clapton, Guns'n'Roses, Iron Maiden, Metallica, Nirvana, Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd, Poison, The Police, Queen, R.E.M., Spin Doctors, U2, and Ugly Kid Joe among many others.

To explain, Jesse Juma, the band manager told the Jordan Times: "We have our own style... to imitate rock'n'roll singers. Mohammad Mashariqa asked us to play oriental blues only three days before the show. So, we in turn asked two other musicians to join us and play on oriental instruments because all of the club's members are specialised in non-Arab instruments."

"Unfortunately, the guys who were supposed to play with us did not show up. So, what could we do? Tell the public there is no show? We played and did what we could," said Mr. Juma.

Garasia Theatre of Creativity planned to present genius works... new ideas in the fields of theatre, music and poetry, but it seemed that the audience sitting on the rocks and columns and standing by the entrance, enjoyed the show nevertheless. Some of the audience, by the end of the performance, began rocking and swaying with the young groups rhythms.

Mohammad Mashariqa felt sad and upset, because his promise came undone. He felt as if the audience was cheated, so, he asked the band to stop playing.

After the show, the group expressed disappointment at Mr. Mashariqa's action.

"He should appreciate the group, because Pink Floyd, The Eagles, U2, and other great international groups would not have come to Jordan to perform of the Jerash Festival," said Mr. Juma. "And Elvis Presely is dead. So, we play them... come and see them live. We tried to introduce the best... just like the original."

George Najjar, one of the musicians said that they are not pretending to be the best band ever known, but they are really good enough, he thinks. They can entertain the audience, which interacts with them whoever and whenever they performed, he added.

'U.S. to write off \$696m in Jordan's debts'

By P.V. Vivekanand

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United States government is expected to write off \$696 million in Jordan's debts in a three-year period, starting with \$190 million this year. Finance Minister Sami Gammoh said Friday.

Mr. Gammoh said, however, that his information was based on "unofficial" figures and that he was waiting for "formal communication" from Washington. The minister said the total Jordanian debt to the U.S. was around \$950 million, but the amount taken into consideration and which falls under the category eligible for debt relief under American parameters was \$696 million.

"The rest of the amount represents loans guaranteed by the government of Jordan to American suppliers of goods and services," Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times, adding that Jordan's definition of government debts differed from Washington's.

Mr. Gammoh said that information available to him indicated that \$190 million would be written off this year, \$252 million next year and the rest in

1996. Diplomatic sources said an announcement was expected soon in Washington detailing the amount of write-off for Jordan and related details.

U.S. President Bill Clinton made a public commitment in October 1993 that Washington would be seeking means to alleviate the Kingdom's foreign debt burden, which stood at \$6.6 billion at the end of 1993.

Since then Washington, whose direct financial assistance to Jordan has dwindled since 1990, played a behind-the-scenes role in trying to secure debt relief for Amman from the Kingdom's other international creditors.

However, Jordan has not received any significant amount of debt relief except that it succeeded in securing a rescheduling agreement covering \$1.215 billion due to members of the Paris Club of creditor governments and another \$130 million to non-Paris Club governments last month.

The U.S. component in the \$1.215 billion agreed to be rescheduled by the Paris Club is around \$400 million. It was not immediately known how much of that amount was eligible for

write-off under the American parameters.

The World Bank has said that Jordan needs to cut its foreign debts by a minimum of 50 per cent before the Kingdom could hope to regain an international level of accepted creditworthiness. That would mean around \$3.5 billion.

Jordan has rejected suggestions that American economic assistance to the Kingdom was the "price" that Washington was paying for the historic meeting that His Majesty King Hussein held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the U.S. capital on Monday and the Washington Declaration that the two leaders endorsed, signalling an end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

Officials said that it was well understood by the Clinton administration that raising the standard of living and addressing some of the root economic problems of Jordan are inevitable elements of the peace process to ensure the effectiveness of any peace agreement.

"There is not bargaining here; it is not 'you give me this and I give you this'," Jordan's Ambassador to the U.S. Fayez Tarawneh

said last month. "This is just putting the bare facts that the stability of Jordan is very important to the continuity of the peace process and this is part of the comprehensiveness," of Middle East peace.

By the same token, Jordan is far from being in a comfortable position let alone being assured of the economic benefits of peace seeping into people's life, officials say.

"What kind of peace are we talking about if we continue to face high poverty, unemployment and other economy-related social problems?" asked a senior official. "Peace should in effect mean an improvement in the life of the people. Without that peace is meaningless as Jordan sees it."

Furthermore, the official pointed out, "people's expectations for a better life in peace have been raised and it is only natural that they would be disappointed if the fruits of peace are not felt, leading to all kinds of problems."

The official, who preferred not to be identified, said Jordan was expecting all its creditors, not only the U.S., to understand the problems faced by Jordan and the very paradox of the

economic conditions of the Kingdom and Israel.

"They are talking about free trade and opening up of economies," said the official. "What is the logic behind opening up two economies where one (Jordan) has a per capita income of \$1,000 and the other (Israel) has \$11,000?" he asked. "There has to be a better compatibility and for this Jordan needs external assistance in whatever form."

Several European diplomats in Amman say it is unlikely that their governments would rush into offering direct debt relief to Jordan in the footsteps of the U.S.

"The Paris Club has just reached an agreement on rescheduling, and it is unlikely that European governments would be willing to follow the American example," said a senior European diplomat.

The Jordanian official countered: "rescheduling does not mean that our burden is alleviated; we are only putting off the payment of the debts. The burden remains very much on the country."

Japan, another major creditor of Jordan accounting for about \$1.3 billion of the Kingdom's foreign

debts, argues that it is unable to extend debt write-off because of a legislative constraint that bars the Tokyo government from doing so. However, Japan is ready to make available more funds to Jordan to raise the Kingdom's economic performance to a level where it is able to repay its debts.

Another pitfall is a Japanese regulation that limited government aid to countries which have received debt relief in the form of direct write-off. But diplomatic sources say that the Tokyo government would be able to rise over this problem.

"There are other means to extend aid to Jordan," said the senior official without directly referring to Japan. "There are concessional loans as well as grants that countries could provide to help to address its problems."

"In the final analysis," said the official, "what matters to us here is the fact that Jordan's courageous step forward, despite all the risks involved, and hopes that its contribution would bring about a global peace in such a vital region as the Middle East, should not be in vain."

Slain woman's sister to come to Jordan

MORRISTOWN, N.J. (AP)

A woman's bid to gain custody of her slain sister's children gained strength Thursday when His Majesty King Hussein invited her to Jordan to present evidence that she was financially able to care for her niece and nephew.

Meanwhile, Morris County prosecutor W. Michael Murphy Jr. conceded that Mohammad Ismail Abequa probably would not be extradited and would be tried in Jordan, where he remains in jail.

There is no extradition treaty between the United States and Jordan. Mr. Murphy has offered to assist in Mr. Abequa's prosecution in Jordan.

Mr. Abequa fled to Jordan with his children after killing his 40-year-old wife, Nihal Abequa, on July 4, authorities have said.

She was found in her apartment two days later, strangled, beaten and stuffed under a bed. Mr. Abequa was captured in Jordan earlier this month and has since confessed to killing his wife.

King Hussein invited Nesime Dokur and her attorney to travel to Jordan in the next few days. Ms. Dokur said she received the invitation via U.S. senator Frank Lautenberg. At a news conference, Ms. Dokur said she was assured she would return home with the children.

"It's not if I return with the children — I will return with them," she said. "I am not going to visit them."

Ms. Dokur's attorney, Nancy Felsberg, said Jordanian officials want to see proof that Ms. Dokur is financially able to care for 6-year-old Lisa and 3-year-old Sami.

The children now are being cared for by Mr. Abequa's mother, Samiha. Mr. Abequa's brother, Yahya Abequa, has said he will fight for his family's right to keep the children in Jordan.

"We have been reassured that this will be an informal, quick hearing and we will return with the children," said Mr. Feinberg.

Romania promises to import more from Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Romanian government official has opened talks with the Jordanian business sector and government officials on promoting trade exchanges and overland transport facilities.

Costantine Soare, who is head of the Middle East department at the Romanian trade ministry, Thursday held preliminary discussions with Khalidoun Abu Hassan, president of the Amman Chamber of Industry, and planned to resume talks Saturday.

Mr. Soare, who arrived Thursday at the head of a Romanian team, plans to stay until Tuesday to finalise

agreements on several topics, according to Romanian embassy sources here.

At his meeting with Mr. Abu Hassan, Mr. Soare promised that his government would encourage the increase of Romanian imports from Jordan.

Mr. Abu Hassan said at the meeting that the balance of trade between the two countries was heavily in favour of Romania which last year sold Jordan JD26.3 million worth of goods.

Mr. Abu Hassan called on Romania to buy more Jordanian phosphate, potash, fertilisers, electrical appliances, electric cables and medicines, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Fatal road accident ends tragically for newlyweds

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Six survivors of a road accident that claimed the lives of a bridegroom and four other people Thursday on the Ruweished road were listed in fair to serious condition. The survivors were rushed to King Hussein Medical Centre by helicopter, hospital and police sources said.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the accident involved a car transporting members of an Iraqi and a Jordanian family. He said the driver of the car attempted to overtake a vehicle and met head-on

with a trailer coming from the other direction.

According to the police official, the car, carrying newlyweds from Iraq to Amman, was completely wrecked.

He said the groom was killed, and the bride is listed in critical condition. The trailer driver was unhurt.

According to an official at King Hussein Medical Centre, two victims are listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit.

He added that one of the victims, Noor Abdul Ghani, a one-year-old, suffered minor injuries and is expected to survive.

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# Most of Latin America is against U.S. invading Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Most Latin American and Caribbean nations have come out against a military intervention to restore democracy in Haiti, as proposed by the United States, diplomats said.

The regional Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC), at a meeting here Thursday decided to request "giving more time for international sanctions and negotiations to work" their influence on Haiti's military leaders, said Mexico's Deputy Ambassador Gustavo Albin.

Fritz Longchamp, who represents Haiti's legal government under exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said the strongest opposition to an intervention came from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Uruguay.

Longchamp said he would back the use of force to evict the military commanders in Haiti who overthrew Mr.

Aristide in September 1991.

A U.S. proposal for military intervention, presented Monday to the U.N. Security Council, has raised concern among the five permanent and 10 rotating Council members, thwarting the chance of it being approved Friday as planned.

Latin American diplomats said the Council would pass the proposal, sooner or later, despite their group's opposition. Argentina and Brazil are the only GRULAC members on the Council at present.

Argentinian diplomats said their government backed the U.S. proposal and is prepared to contribute "around 600 soldiers" to a multinational intervention force, which would be led, financed and largely manned by the United States.

Brazil opposes a military intervention and has pointed out that Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, invoked by the

U.S. proposal, sanctions the use of force only when world peace and security are threatened.

Although the Haitian crisis presents no such threat, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has backed the U.S. initiative and recommended creating an international force to restore Mr. Aristide to power.

The U.N. chief's view on the issue, included in a report last week, was criticised by GRULAC members, some of whom regretted his omission of any possible negotiated solution to the Haitian problem.

As a first step, the U.S. blueprint calls for the deployment in Haiti of a multinational force to overthrow the coup leaders and reinstate Mr. Aristide.

"After a 'stable environment' is restored to the island, a 6,000-strong U.N. mission in Haiti would take on the task of nurturing the island back to democracy.

The U.N. force was authorised last year, but has not come into being. Its mandate expires on Sunday. By then it is hoped the Security Council will have voted on the U.S. proposal.

White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Thursday that the United States hopes its proposal will be approved, but that it could still act unilaterally in Haiti.

In Port-Au-Prince, some 2,000 people protested a possible invasion in front of the U.S. embassy Thursday, the 79th anniversary of the 1915 U.S. invasion of Haiti. U.S. troops remained until 1934.

Also Thursday, the Washington Post reported that the U.S. leaders were working on a strategy that would include the resignation of General Raoul Cedras — one of the 1991 coup leaders — without accepting Mr. Aristide's return in an effort to gain international recognition.

# Top general killed in Madrid blast

MADRID (R) — A top army general and two other soldiers were killed when a car bomb, believed to be the work of ETA Basque separatists, rocked the heart of Madrid during rush hour Friday morning, officials said.

General Francisco Vegallos, director-general of defence policy, was passing in his armoured car when the bomb exploded in Plaza Ramales, just 200 metres from the royal palace.

Gen. Vegallos' bodyguard and driver were also killed and 14 people were injured in the blast, which ripped through the triangular square at 8.45 am. (0645 GMT), shattering windows and engulfing parked cars in flames.

The force of the blast, composed of around 20 kilos of explosive, hurled one of the bodies onto a nearby balcony, witnesses said.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the bomb but ETA has often targeted military officers in their 25-year armed campaign for an independent Basque state.

Local officials had little doubt who was behind the attack, with the ruling Social-

ists condemning the "futile terrorism."

"ETA assassins and those who support them are seeing their own members desert, and are taking note of their isolation from the vast majority of the Basque people," a statement said.

ETA's last major attack in the capital took place just over a year ago when five soldiers and two civilians were killed in two separate car bombs in June.

They last struck on June 1 when an army general was shot dead on his way to work, prompting fears ETA had managed to reestablish an active unit based in Madrid.

Another officer was killed by a bomb attached to his car on May 23.

"We are tired of cursing these assassins. They target that which is most sacred: life itself," Madrid Mayor Jose Maria Alvarez Del Manzano said at the scene.

Friday's attack struck at the heart of the city's old section, close to the Puerto Del Sol Square — a favourite meeting-place for both tourists and locals.

The area of maze-like, cobble streets contains several historical buildings. One of the city's landmark churches, the Iglesia De Santiago, was damaged by the blast.

The injured included several members of the Spanish national dance company which is based in the Plaza Ramales, close to the headquarters of the old Royal Guard.

"There was an explosion and I threw myself to the ground. I then stayed on my knees, praying," one eye witness told EFE news agency. He said he saw a prop van belonging to the dance company engulfed in flames.

Police were mounting a special operation to try and track down those responsible for the attack which coincides with one of summer's busiest traffic weekends as millions of people leave the capital at the start of traditional August holidays.

Road blocks were being set up on motorways leading out of the city and helicopters will also take part in the operation.

# Venice announces line-up for 1994 film festival

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Seeking to expand the cultural and technical variety of the Venice Film Festival, organisers announced a line-up spanning from blockbuster American director Oliver Stone to the 16-millimetre reel of 24-year-old French novice Karim Dridi. Stone's Natural Born Killers and Dridi's Pigalle — the name of a Paris red-light district — are among 15 films by directors from 12 nations competing for the festival's top prize, the Golden Lion. The 51st edition of the festival runs from Sept. 1 to Sept. 12. The festival's director, Gillo Pontecorvo, said efforts were made to keep the film competition as international as possible. But like last year, American directors dominate the non-competing films. Seven of the 12 to be shown out-of-competition are American-made, including: Forrest Gump, by Robert Zemeckis; Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, by Henry Selick and Bales Over Broadway by Woody Allen. The two American films in the festival competition are Stone's and Alexander Rockwell's Taxi Dancer. France also has two films going after the Lion: Pigalle and Diane Kourys. La Folie (To Craziness). Other films competing include: La Teta Y La Luna (The Breast And The Moon) by Spain's Juan Bigas Luna; Magic Hunter by Jidko Enevdyev representing Canada and Hungary; Heavenly Creatures by Peter Jackson of New Zealand; Yanggung Canlan De Riz (Sunny Days) by Jiang Wen of China; Before The Rain by Milcho Manchevski of Macedonia; Zivov A. Neobycejna Dobrodruzstvi Vojaka Ivana Konjara (The Life And The Extraordinary Adventure Of Simple Soldier Ivan Chonkin) by Jiri Menzel and entered by the Czech Republic and Britain; Una Sombra Ya Pronto Seras (A Shadow You Will Soon Be) by Hector Olivera of Argentina; Le Cri Du Coeur (Cries Of The Heart) by Yannis Quedrogo of Burkina Faso; Aiqing Wansui (Long Live Love) by Tsai Ming-Liang of Taiwan and Tres Irmaos (Three Brothers) by Teresa Villaverde of Portugal. Last year, two films for the top prize: Short Cuts by American Robert Altman and Trois Couleurs Bleue (Three Colours. Blue) by Poland's Krzysztof Kieslowski.

# Mortar fire kills 41 reindeer in Finland

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) — Finnish soldiers accidentally fired a round of mortar shells at a reindeer herd that roamed onto an army target site in Lapland, killing 41 of the animals. "The animals appeared from behind a mound" after soldiers fired nine 120mm mortar shells into the air, said Defence Ministry spokesman Reima Helminen. "There was nothing the soldiers could do to avoid the accident." The incident occurred near Kemijarvi, some 900 kilometres north of Helsinki. Shooting accidents involving reindeer happen occasionally in Lapland, where herders allow their animals to roam during the summer in search of food.

# Storm over £50 'reward' for sex attack victim

LONDON (AFP) — A judge sparked outrage by awarding the six-year-old victim of a sex assault £50 (£75) compensation and freeing her molester on probation. The Crown Prosecution Service said it had referred the case to the attorney general for consideration of an appeal against the sentence. Terence Hadenham, 43, was placed on probation for three years by Judge John Whitley and ordered to pay the cash to his young victim at the rate of £5 (£7.5) a week, after being found guilty of gross indecency and indecent assault. The money would be a "reward" to the girl for going through the trauma of giving evidence. Judge Whitley told Portsmouth Crown Court, southern England, he would not send Mr. Hadenham to prison after hearing that he would be ridiculed by fellow inmates because he suffered stunted growth and has a glass eye. Ordering Mr. Hadenham to play the compensation, Judge Whitley said: "I think the girl should be rewarded for what she had to go through. I don't see why she should not be compensated in some way."

# Nussbaum defends actions in Whitewater storm

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton's former counsel Bernard Nussbaum, in sometimes emotional testimony Thursday, defended his actions at the centre of the Whitewater storm as it enveloped the White House.

He said he regretted not having done a better job for Mr. Clinton by being more forthcoming to the press as questions grew about contacts between the White House and Treasury officials, leading to his resignation last April.

But he made no apologies for his contacts, saying he had a duty to inform the president about a possible criminal investigation in which he was potentially involved so he was not "blind-sided" by media inquiries.

Mr. Nussbaum was testifying at the second day of hearings by the House of Representatives Banking Committee into the Whitewater affairs, which stems from Mr. Clinton's financial affairs in Arkansas in the 1970s and 1980s.

The contacts concerned a decision by the Resolution Trust Corp. (RTC), which investigated failed savings and loan institutions, to refer an investigation of the collapsed Madison Guaranty Savings Loan to the Justice Department for a possible criminal probe. Mr. Clinton was named as a possible witness.

Madison head James McDougal and his wife Susan were partners of Mr. Clinton and his wife Hillary in a vacation development project in Arkansas known as Whitewater.

At issue is whether federal insured funds from the bank were funnelled into the failed investment and into retiring a Clinton campaign debt.

Current White House counsel Lloyd Cutler told the committee Tuesday that no ethical rules were broken in the contacts but said too many people were involved.

Nussbaum said it was proper for the president to be advised of an investigation concerning himself that was likely to lead to press inquiries.

Mr. Nussbaum also said he had been concerned about a decision by Deputy Treasury Secretary Roger Altman to separate, or recuse, himself from the Madison investigation at a time when Mr. Altman was acting head of the RTC because there was no legal or ethical reason to do so.

He said he was concerned about what Mr. Altman was considering doing "but I did not tell him to remain in the matter. I told him that if he was legally or ethically required to recuse himself, he should do so promptly."

Mr. Altman recused himself from the Madison investigation and stepped down as interim head of the RTC on Feb. 25.

Mr. Nussbaum, who has returned to his law practice in New York, spoke emotionally about his White House service, saying he had been naive and should have worked more effectively with the press.

# Talks to end Nigeria oil strike look bleak

LAGOS (R) — A strike by oil workers supporting detained presidential claimant Moshood Abiola is beginning to hurt Nigeria's oil industry, business sources said Friday.

Talks with the government on ending the stoppage was due to resume later Friday but a union leader said they were unlikely to resolve the dispute.

One union has said it would stay away from the talks in protest against the killing of demonstrators by security forces Thursday during clashes outside the court where Mr. Abiola is on trial for treason.

"If they release Abiola unconditionally and accept all our demands we will end the strike within 24 hours," Bola Odunmbi, president of the oil union PENGASSAN, told Reuters.

The oil workers went on strike four weeks ago soon after Mr. Abiola's arrest by the military government. Mr. Abiola is widely believed to have won a presidential election in June 1993 which the military annulled. He declared himself president last month.

The strike by PENGASSAN, the white-collar oil workers union and NUPENG, its junior partner, has crippled domestic oil supplies and production of crude oil is being reduced.

"We are beginning to see the impact of the strike," a shipping agent specialising in oil cargoes told Reuters.

"The tanks at the terminals are no longer full," he added.

A senior staff member at a multinational said: "The downward direction which we experienced from early on in the strike is now more pronounced."

The two unions also want an improvement in the management of the industry, the Nigerian economy's backbone. Their meeting with government negotiators Monday ended inconclusively.

"We are going because staying away does not let

them know our feelings but we do not believe the meeting will produce any results," Mr. Odunmbi said of Friday's planned talks.

A NUPENG spokesman said the union was undecided on whether to attend the meeting.

NUPENG President Wariebi Agamene said Thursday the union would stay away from the talks in protest against the killing of demonstrators by security forces Thursday during the clashes in Abuja and another killed in Lagos during a march.

Unconfirmed reports said up to five people have been killed in the clashes.

Mr. Abiola's case was adjourned to Tuesday.

His detention has thrown Nigeria into chaos with protests and strikes that have hit many services. Several other unions are also demanding his release and an end to military rule in Africa's most populous nation.

Lagos International Airport, closed Thursday after air traffic controllers went on strike to demand better conditions, was back in operation Friday after they suspended the action.

The air traffic controllers' strike coincided with those of other airport workers in support of Mr. Abiola.

U.S. envoy Jesse Jackson, who arrived in Nigeria Wednesday with a message from President Bill Clinton, said after meeting Mr. Abiola and military ruler General Sani Abacha that he detected no shift in the stand of the rival leaders.

Mr. Abiola maintained that he was legally elected while Gen. Abacha wanted to press on with a constitutional conference to draw up a new political agenda.

Rev. Jackson told a news conference if the two men remained inflexible the tensions could worsen and lead to civil war, adding: "Rwanda will be small by comparison."

Rev. Jackson left for home early Friday.

# 1 killed in Kashmir as troops break up protests

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — One person was killed and six wounded here Friday when Indian troops opened fire on demonstrators protesting the arrest of several top leaders of the Kashmiri Muslim separatist movement.

The Muslim-majority Kashmir Valley was paralysed by a day-long general strike called by Muslim militant groups to condemn the arrests.

Yasin Malik, head of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Shakeel Ahmad Bakshi, leader of the banned Islamic Students League, and 11 other prominent Muslim separatist leaders were arrested overnight during a protest at Kashmir's holiest Islamic shrine, the Hazratbal Mosque.

They were demanding the removal of bunkers erected by Indian paramilitary troops around the shrine, which houses a sacred hair which Kashmiri Muslims believe came from the beard of the Prophet Mohammad.

# Russia returns navy base to Estonia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia turned over its navy base in Tallinn to the Estonian Navy Thursday, two days after Russian and Estonian leaders agreed on the terms of the pullout of 2,500 Russian troops remaining in the Baltic state, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

No special ceremonies marked the transfer of the navy facilities in the Estonian capital, a Russian Navy spokesman said.

Originally scheduled celebrations that were to be attended by the commander in chief of the Russian Baltic Fleet, Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, were cancelled for "unknown" reasons, the Baltic News Service reported.

President Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Lennart Meri of Estonia had Tuesday signed an agreement ending the Russian military presence in the Baltic nation by Aug. 31.

No agreement has however been reached on the dismantling of Russian nuclear reac-

tors at Paldiski, a former Soviet Navy base 40 kilometres west of the Estonian capital.

But ITAR-TASS Thursday cited the Russian head delegate at the talks, Vasil Svirin, as saying an accord was "practically ready."

Russia pledged last year to withdraw all troops from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by Aug. 31. But Moscow later went back on the promise to pull out of Estonia, demanding that the rights of the Russian-speaking minority which makes up 28 per cent of the total population and of 10,000 former Soviet army pensioners must first be guaranteed.

The naval base used to service 12 ships, but only one remains, and "we don't even have enough men to run that ship," said Anatoly Derevyanko, deputy commander of the nearly deserted base.

Estonian officials, mean-

while, said it appeared the pace of the Russian withdrawal was speeding up.

"It seems the troops are moving out extremely fast now," said Juri Kork, a press spokesman at Estonia's Defence Headquarters.

Russia's red, white and blue flag was lowered from the officer's club several weeks ago and has not been seen since. A white statue of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin that stood by the front gate for decades was recently packed and shipped to Russia.

The Estonian president has faced criticism at home from opponents who say he conceded too much to Russia, including social guarantees for some 10,000 retired Russian military officers.

But Mr. Meri defended the accord as good for Estonia and said he would keep his vow not to drink champagne until the last Russian soldier leaves Estonian soil.

# IRA blamed as mortar attack wounds 18

BELFAST (R) — Suspected IRA guerrillas injured 29 people, including children, Friday when three mortar bombs were fired at a police station in Northern Ireland, police said.

Nine police died in an IRA attack on the station in 1985. A nearby hospital said it was flooded with injured peo-

ple — many of them cut by flying glass — and a spokesman said two police officers were badly wounded.

"Three mortars were fired from a lorry in a car park outside a police station in Newry," a police spokesman said.

"Two exploded inside the station, one in the roadway

outside. There were a number of casualties, both police and civilian."

Police blamed the Irish Republican Army (IRA), which has waged a 25-year war to oust British troops from Northern Ireland.

The spokesman said 24 of those hurt were civilians, one a three-year-old boy.

# Cambodia asks U.S. for additional military aid

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodia's co-premiers have asked President Bill Clinton to send a team to assess a demand for military assistance to the Cambodian Armed Forces, battling the far-left Khmer Rouge.

"We would be most grateful if the U.S. government could send a military delegation to Cambodia in order to make (an) assessment and recommendations," a letter from Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, obtained by AFP Friday, said.

The letter was dated Tuesday, July 26, thus coinciding with one of the most brutal assaults by the Khmer Rouge since Cambodia sought to end its civil war with new elections in May last year.

The guerrillas ambushed a train in Kampot, southern Cambodia, killing 10 passengers, slaying three Vietnamese hostages and abducting about 30 more, including a Briton, an Australian and a Frenchman, officials here said.

The U.S. sent 44 military personnel and surplus road construction equipment in early July for a three month non-lethal military aid programme. The military personnel are training Cambodians to use the new equipment and to step up mine clearance.

Western countries have been reluctant, however, to provide weapons and lethal military assistance. Military experts say it is far more important to first train and reform the armed forces, otherwise lethal aid could be counter-productive as corrupt commanders might sell weapons to the Khmer Rouge.

The government captured the Khmer Rouge's Pailin headquarters in northwest Cambodia in March but lost it to a guerrilla counter-

attack in April, a defeat blamed on corruption and poor leadership amongst the officers in charge of the operation.

The letter did not specify whether lethal or non-lethal aid, but made it clear that the government would address the concerns about giving lethal assistance.

It assured Mr. Clinton that the government "is firmly determined to undertake the necessary reform of the armed forces." It also said Australia, France, Malaysia and Indonesia have already "appreciated our measures and put forward concrete aid."

Officials at the Malaysian embassy here, however, told AFP that Malaysia had "absolutely no intention" of giving military assistance to Cambodia.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans favoured military aid to the Cambodian government in comments earlier this week, but French Minister for European Affairs Alain Lamassoure said Thursday that it was more important to help Phnom Penh restructure its armed forces.

Senior officials from the Indonesian Defence Ministry also met Prince Ranariddh and Cambodian co-Defence Ministers Tea Banh and Tea Chamrath Thursday, government officials said.

They discussed ideas for securing help from Indonesia to train some 200 Cambodian soldiers in counter-insurgency techniques and 50 others in psychological warfare.

Khmer Rouge guerrillas killed three Vietnamese hostages and moved three Westerners to a jungle base after an attack on a train in southern Cambodia where 10 people were killed and many were injured, police and army officials said Friday.

"According to information we got from (Cambodian) hostages released yesterday, the three Vietnamese have already been killed and the three Westerners were moved to the Khmer Rouge headquarters," the director of the State Railway, Pich Kimsreang, said.

Police General Lora Min said the three Western men — an Australian, a Frenchman and a Briton — were brought to meet the leader of the Khmer Rouge, Commander Paet, in the jungle around Phnom Vour in southern Kampot province, 130 kilometres south of the capital.

Six civilians, two soldiers and two train militia were killed and many others were wounded, a train official said.

The guerrillas boarded the train, robbed the passengers and then marched some 200 people off into the bush.

Most of the Cambodians have been released, General Lora Min said that around 30 Cambodian men were still being detained by the guerrillas.

There was no immediate reason why the three Vietnamese were killed. But the Khmer Rouge have a visceral hatred of Vietnam, which ousted the Khmer Rouge regime in Phnom Penh in 1979 and then installed a pro-Hanoi government.

Ethnic Vietnamese in Cambodia are considered by the Khmer Rouge to be spies and interlopers working for Vietnam.

Meanwhile, the U.S. State Department has named a director for the office to investigate genocide under Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime, but analysts said the choice reveals Washington's uneasiness about the task.

Career diplomat Alfonso La Porta will head the Washington-based Office of Cambodian Genocide Inves-

tigation, which will gather data about mass murder, war crimes or crimes against humanity committed under the Khmer Rouge.

Mr. La Porta has worked here on the department's multilateral assistance initiative for the Philippines and previously served as deputy chief of mission in New Zealand, said an official, who asked not to be identified.

But some close to the issue questioned why the State Department did not select one of its four or five highly-regarded experts on Cambodia, barely staffed the office and then based it in Washington instead of Phnom Penh.

Mr. La Porta will have one assistant. Non-governmental groups will conduct the investigation in Cambodia and deliver the data to the Cambodian government and possibly an international tribunal, the official said.

"Clearly, the United States does not want to establish this office and is trying to find the least offensive way to do it," said a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Craig Etcheson, director of the Campaign to Oppose the Return of the Khmer Rouge, said Mr. La Porta was "certainly a surprise choice" but he added he was taking a "wait and see attitude" about Mr. La Porta's effectiveness.

"The State Department strongly opposed the passage of this law (establishing the office) for three years and is in the process of adjusting their policy and perspective to come into compliance with it," he said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton signed a bill on April 31 that included a provision creating the office to investigate Pol Pot and other Khmer Rouge leaders for genocide during their 1975-79 rule, during which an estimated one million people died.

# French leaders at odds on more nuclear testing

PARIS (AFP) — A possible move by France to restart nuclear testing in the Pacific lies at the heart of a "major disagreement" between centre-left French President Francois Mitterrand and his conservative government.

The government is looking to carry out new tests after next May's presidential elections, when Mr. Mitterrand will step down, ending a moratorium which Paris has observed since April 1992.

To date, France has undertaken 192 subterranean tests beneath the Mururoa Atoll since 1975, according to the Commission for Atomic Energy (CEA).

Mr. Mitterrand has already admitted the issue is a rare but major source of friction between him and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur's administration.

Citing his authority over the nuclear issue as head of state, Mr. Mitterrand has threatened to call a referendum if the disagreement on testing erupts into a serious crisis.

He recently said that res-

tarting testing was out of the question as long as the United States, Britain and Russia abided by their own moratoria. The United States recently extended its ban until September 1995.

Mr. Mitterrand has also expressed his belief that his successor as president will not relaunch testing at Mururoa, "because France will not want to offend the entire world by relaunching nuclear over-arms."

For supporters of the moratorium, a return to French testing would put France in a very awkward position and compromise its improving links with states in the South Pacific, who are virulently opposed to a resumption of testing around Mururoa.

More testing would also make it difficult to extend the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995, at a time when France is pushing for the adoption of international sanctions against communist North Korea, whom the West suspects of making nuclear weapons.







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## Need for democracy reasserted

WITH THE signing of the Washington Declaration last Monday, the Kingdom has entered a new era which will bring about significant changes on the political, economic and social scenes. Along with the changes will come new challenges, which would make the pooling of all the resources of the state and the people an essential requirement to maintain the stability, prosperity and security of the country.

In the coming period, Jordan will have to face the enormous task of making peace with Israel and moving forward in its democratic march. Some are arguing that those twin goals will be hard to attain due to the difficult decisions that the building of peace with Israel will entail. This reasoning is flawed. The fusion of the two objectives will most probably lead to the birth of a new Jordan, at peace with itself and with its neighbours.

As far as the democratisation process is concerned, there is a consensus among all Jordanians that the only way is forward. His Majesty King Hussein has repeatedly stressed its irreversibility. So have the majority of political parties, which have proved over the years that even when they differ with the government, the law of the land is the criteria against which differences are addressed.

The differences between the government and the opposition on the peace process is yet another reason why both should have as their priority the consolidation of democracy.

The government is pursuing peace with Israel because it believes peace will serve the interest of Jordan and its people. Opponents of the peace process oppose it because they believe the negotiations with Israel will undermine those interests. The stands of both the pro and anti-peace talks camps are rooted in their desire to serve the Kingdom and protect its interests. No one can question the fact that a democratic environment where debate is carried out in a healthy, responsible and peaceful manner is the best environment for the progress and advancement of Jordan. Hence the differences over the peace process should offer yet another reason for strengthening the democratic process and its institutions.

The opponents of the peace process have thus far shown enough pragmatism in voicing their stand on the peace talks with Israel. Their right to their political views is one ensured and protected by the Constitution. But their means for expressing these views should continue to be constitutional and rational. Resorting to rhetoric and fiery statements is an easy recourse that can raise emotions. But it cannot serve any cause.

Strengthening the democratic institutions in Jordan will allow for a healthy political environment under which the people will be able to listen to both points of view on the peace process. That process is still at its early stages. In the months if not years to come, the advantages or disadvantages of peace will start to surface. If the democratic institutions are properly functioning then, all will be able to pass on their views to the people on what peace has brought about. But if these institutions had by then fallen victim to irresponsible behaviour, only one story will be told. Consequently, Jordan and its people will be the losers, something which neither the opponents nor the proponents of the peace process want.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the ceremonies in Washington have come to an end with the signing of the declaration that paves the ground for peace, all eyes will be turned towards Israel to see if it will be committed to implementing the declaration's provisions, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The world has listened to the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, delivering a passionate address expressing the Jewish state's orientation towards peace with the Arabs and the people of the Middle East are now watching to see if Mr. Rabin will keep his word and embark on practical steps towards peace, according to the paper. Mr. Rabin has promised to speed up the process of demarcating borders with Jordan and giving impetus to the peace process by yielding to the Kingdom's demands of its rightful share in the water resources; and therefore one can hardly wait to see facts materialising on the ground, said the paper. Jordanians, said the daily, cannot feel they have peace before they see their lost territories restored and water resources given back to them, and they also cannot feel they have peace with Israel before outstanding issues on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian tracks have been all settled fairly and justly. The ball, added the paper, is now in the Israeli court and every one is waiting to see whether Israel is truly oriented towards peace or that the Washington Declaration was merely a ploy to gain more time and ensure normalisation without ending occupation.

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shaab daily, Ahmad Dabbas, said that the summer holidays of the past and present still witness innocent people falling victim to stray bullets fired by those rejecting over weddings or success in college and school. He said that despite the ban on firing on these occasions, one continues to hear blasts of automatic rifles sounding in urban and rural regions of Jordan. Firing at random is a show of total disregard to law and order and reflects backward-mindedness that should be promptly halted by the concerned authorities, said the writer. Continued violation of the law manifests the fact that some people cannot be deterred by mere advice or even warnings, and therefore, drastic measures ought to be taken to ensure law and order and protect the lives of innocent people, the writer added.

## Jordanian Perspective

# Loud voices that betray obliquity

By Dr. Musa Keilani

THE LOUD VOICE of Palestinian protestations over Israeli acknowledgement of Jordan's historic role vis-a-vis the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem is at best short-sighted since it does not take into consideration the fact it was the first explicit recognition by the Jewish state of the Arab and Muslim rights in the Holy City. At the same time it also exposes certain realities in the relationship between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the underlying multifaceted policy the PLO has been applying when it comes to Jordan.

The move by the Palestinian leadership to ban the circulation of Al Nahar, described as a "pro-Jordanian" daily based in Jerusalem, in the Gaza Strip and Jericho — the autonomous areas — is nothing but a clear pointer of the state of mind of the PLO leaders, who appear to attach little, if any, importance to the Jordanian role in the Arab-Israeli Peace process launched 33 months ago.

The overriding factor in any debate over the impact of the reference to Jerusalem in the Israeli-Jordanian declaration is the fact that His Majesty King Hussein has managed to lay a concrete foundation stone towards securing the Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

Lest it has escaped the PLO's attention, the Jordanian success comes amid intensified moves by Jewish groups to consolidate the Israeli grip on Jerusalem. The latest of such moves came with the assertion by Ahariyeh Kohenin, an "ultranationalist" Zionist group, that it was planning to have one million Jews, immigrants and otherwise, living in and around Jerusalem in the next few years. The assertion has to be seen coupled with the systematic campaign by Israelis, led by their mayor of Jerusalem, to obliterate as many signs of the Palestinian/Arab/Muslim identity of Jerusalem.

For all technical and practical purposes, all indications, public and private, up until the Washington Declaration signed last Monday were that there was no PLO contest over the Hashemite role in Jerusalem and that the organisation, in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, respected the Hashemite family's right to assert and regain, in physical terms, its authority over the Islamic shrines in the Holy City.

The PLO's pointed side-stepping of the Jordanian statements that Israel's agreement in the Washington Declaration that the Jewish state would give high priority to the historic Jordanian role in the context of the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem was not a political issue is most telling. The PLO stand gives rise to the sinister implications that the PLO never had any intention of respecting the Hashemites' right and all the talk we heard about Jordan-PLO understanding were onesided from Amman.

I disagree with the term "row" while the media describe the Jordan-PLO exchanges over Jerusalem. The Jordanian government has only been issuing conciliatory statements, clearly pointing out that the Hashemite role in the Holy City has no political ramifications and determining the final status of Jerusalem in political terms was left to the PLO and Israel under their Sept. 13 declaration of principles.

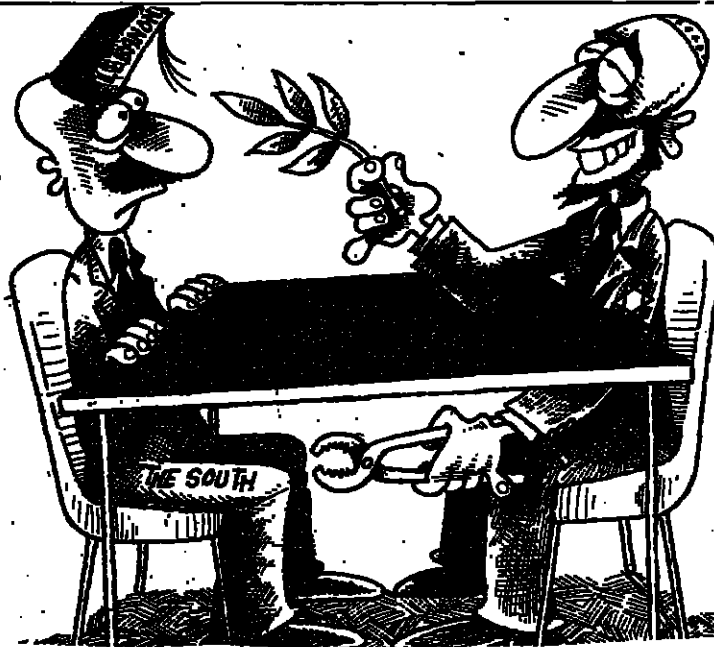
To say the least, the situation that arose after the issuance of the Washington Declaration is the direct result of the lack of coordination between the two sides, and Jordan cannot be blamed for it in the least. After all, it was not Jordan which went behind the back of its partner and struck a secret deal with Israel in Oslo, it was not Jordan which kept its partner in the dark of its intentions and the stages of progress it made in negotiations with Israel despite the fact that the results of those negotiations had a direct bearing on the partner.

Had there been close coordination between the PLO and Jordan, there would not have been any "confusion" or "misunderstanding" over what each side was seeking in their respective tracks of negotiations with Israel. If anything, the whole situation now looks like the PLO always pursuing its own interests without informing Jordan on issues that concerned Jordan but insisting that when it is Jordan's turn the Kingdom should have protected "Palestinian interests" without clearly knowing what those interests were.

In essence, what it means to us in Jordan is that the PLO wanted the Kingdom to wait in the wings until the Palestinians conclude their "final status" negotiations with Israel and step in whenever the PLO wanted the Kingdom to be used as a leverage or pressure point against Israel. And, under this line of thinking, Jordan had better accept whatever the Palestinians felt like when it comes to Jordanian interests.

Well, Jordan has had enough of that kind of a situation, which it put up with for a long time. It was time for Jordan to assert its role and pursue efforts to protect its own national interests without prejudice to the rights of not only its Arab partners in the peace process but also of the Arab World. That is what Jordan did by endorsing the Washington Declaration and ending the state of war with Israel, paving the way for serious and concerted negotiations on the core issues of conflict with the Jewish state.

If anything, beyond Jordan's repeated calls for close coordination with the PLO, the Kingdom also found the negotiating behaviour of the PLO left a lot to be desired. There was little doubt that if the fate of Jerusalem was to be left to the PLO to be negotiated with Israel, the outcome would not have exactly been of the kind that the Arabs and Muslims would have desired.



M. KAHIL

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

# Washington declaration first step on the long road towards peace

By Elia Nasrallah

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the signing of the Washington Declaration were addressed by the local press in the past week. Domestic affairs were also dealt with by some columnists.

A columnist in Al Ra'i described the handshake between the King and Mr. Rabin as the first step on the one-thousand-mile road to peace. However, said Ahmad Al Mislh, there is a big difference between what came in writing and the establishment of peace on the ground and between expression of hopes and sentiments and implementation of U.N. resolutions on the part of Israel.

In the view of Mahmoud Rimawi, another columnist in Al Ra'i, the Washington meeting would assume real historic proportions only if Israel proves committed to implementing U.N. resolutions and give back Jordan its legitimate rights. The writer said that the meeting would also be of significance to the future generations if it results in better economic situation in Jordan, return of Jordanian-American traditional relations and an end to all foreign pressure on the Kingdom.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the Jordanian people are all in favour of peace and they support the King's steps to regain usurped rights. In the paper's view, the meeting in Washington represented a truly historic event as it gave impetus to the peace process and

would speed up progress on the other tracks.

A Dastour daily said that the Washington Declaration has placed the Middle East region at the threshold of a new era. In view of the new emerging situation and in the light of the new facts, we should consider that the state of war with Israel has ended and adopt a new line of policy and new way of dealing with the given facts, said the paper. The paper said that the ball is back in the Israeli court and it is up to Israel now to end its aggressive attitude, military arrogance and desire to impose hegemony over the Arab World.

Awini Sadeq, a columnist in Al Aswaq, said that peace in the Middle East will benefit Israel in the first place because it would secure for normalisation of relations with the Arab states and the Arab World's open recognition. The writer said that through peace Israel would ensure gains it had sought in the past half century and therefore Israel had to pay for peace and should be made to return Arab rights in lands and water. But, unfortunately, he said, the Arabs have so far been giving concessions to Israel and, should this trend continue, the aspired peace would remain out of reach.

Saying that the Washington Declaration is but a mere start for regaining Jordan's lost rights, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that the road to peace remains far away. Talks with the Israelis will prove difficult for the negotiators from Jordan and the other Arab parties, and therefore, said the writer, concerted efforts

should be exerted at all fronts and pressure should be exercised on Israel from all sides to speed up the implementation of the accords reached with the Arabs.

Nabil Sharif, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that war is not an objective by itself and there was need now to follow the path of peace to regain Arab rights. Ending the state of war with Israel should be a welcome development since it would help the Arabs to rally all their efforts towards gaining, through negotiations, what has been usurped from them for so long and pave the ground for reconstruction and development, said the writer.

Mohammad Subehi, a columnist in Al Dastour, called for an urgent meeting by the Palestinian and Jordanian leaderships to end differences over the status of Jerusalem's holy shrines. As long as the two sides strive for the same objective, there can be no alternative to joint efforts and a new formula for close cooperation to deal with the challenges of the coming era, added the writer.

Reflecting on Israel's threats to Lebanon in the wake of bombings against Israeli targets, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dastour, said that any new Israeli incursion into Lebanon could have wide scale repercussions and would adversely affect the peace process. Despite Israel's signing of agreements with the Arabs and concluding a declaration with Jordan, its leaders are still oriented towards aggression under the pretext of evicting the resistance men from south Lebanon, said the writer.

He said to prove that it wants peace with its neighbours, Israel is in need of more than nice and eloquent words and should practice peace on the ground.

Nazih Gousus, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, drew attention to the continued suffering of the residents of Fuhes as a result of pollution caused by the fumes and the dust spewing from the chimneys of the cement factory in the town. So many complaints were made to the concerned authorities and so many discussions over this issue were held but nothing has been done to save the lives of the people, said the writer. The cement factory has made a fortune over the years through winning the cement and marketing it in Jordan and abroad and it is the duty of the cement company to allocate part of its profits to dealing with the pollution issue and protecting the lives of people, said the writer.

Ahmad Dabbas, a columnist in Al Dastour, addressed pollution in the Zarqa River, noting that the ineffective work of the Khirbat Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant caused the river water to be heavily contaminated. The writer said that the river water is finding its way to the reservoir behind the King Talal Dam, which, in turn, supplies irrigation water for the farmlands in the Jordan Valley. He urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to stop the pollution by upgrading the efficiency of the waste water treatment plant and through other necessary precautionary measures.

## LETTERS

# Sweden's role acknowledged

To the Editor:

AT A time when Jordan is passing to a new era of forgiveness, tolerance and peaceful coexistence with all its neighbours, at a time when the whole world is witnessing the historic courageous step taken by His Majesty King Hussein which comes after assiduous endeavours to provide the Jordanian people with the best possible while emphasising the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, I like many Jordanians, would like to share in extending our appreciation and gratitude to all those who contributed and still do to bringing peace with its accompanying progress to this part of the world.

Yet, it is indeed a sad moment when tributes are made to many, excluding those who silently worked both at governmental and non-governmental levels, through direct and indirect mediation, to eliminate the sufferings of the people of this region.

I am talking about a society which achieved distinguished progress and development after refusing to adopt offensive wars as a means to achieve their national goals and opted for peaceful cooperation and coexistence; a society eager to let others enjoy the advantages of peaceful cooperation and which continue working hard to spread international social and economic justice by allocating approximately one per cent of its GNP for official international development assistance. This same nation learned to contain crises in its vicinity in a diplomatic, peaceful manner after long history of conflicts and hostilities with its neighbours and developed a culture based on cooperation and compromise, giving birth not only to personalities who are to be considered altruistic peace seekers but to a whole people who endlessly tries to lessen the agonies of war victims, including those of the Palestinian people.

A nation whose different governments brought prosperity to their people by being objective free from illusions and able to assess a situation realistically. These same qualities which also distinguish the wise leadership of this country, Jordan, and direct its foreign policies.

As a student researcher on Sweden and as someone who witnessed closely for more than one decade the achievements of a people working laboriously behind the curtains on international arena, I would like to use this democratic forum to refer to the pioneers of peace brokers in the Middle East: to Count Folke Bernadotte, Dag Hammarskjold, Gunnar Jarring, Jan Eliasson and to those Swedes like Sten Andersson and Mathias Mossberg who touched themselves the wounds of the people in Jordan and in the occupied territories and were determined to see that violence is replaced by political dialogue among the warring parties.

These Swedish efforts culminated in the Stockholm document which was adopted by President Yasser Arafat on Dec. 8, 1988.

Like many Jordanians, and while we accept our past enemies as our future friends, we cannot but remember with great consideration our past present and future friends, the Swedes, regardless of whether their assistance to this area was mainly addressed to our brethren the Palestinians or whether our economic problems and resumption of democracy received enough understanding and attention or not.

If the Swedes prefer to keep low profile and are shy to refer to their contributions, we as Jordanians, feel more than obliged to extend our warm thanks to a people who by being committed to human rights and international law in theory and in practice and through their taking part productively in international affairs, especially in the Third World are entitled to be classified as the model great nation of the late twentieth century. We here, as people of Jordan, with our country's modest natural resources promise, as usual to reciprocate the kindness and the assistance of Sweden with the customary Jordanian generous reception of all Swedes visiting Jordan, whether businessmen, people of culture, tourists or officials.

Madeline Manuel Mentzha-  
pian, Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israelis believe in the 'new Mideast'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Six out of 10 Israelis believe "a new Middle East will become a reality," according to an opinion poll published Friday. The Yediot Aharonot daily found 61 per cent agreed with the vision while 39 per cent did not. However, on the question of Jerusalem, 48 per cent said no but Israel should have rights over the holy sites while 28 per cent were ready to recognize Jordanian rights and only three per cent Palestinian rights. Sixteen per cent would grant joint rights to the Jordanians and the Palestinians. The Dahaf institute questioned 504 Israelis on Tuesday and Wednesday for the survey which has a four per cent margin of error.

### Gore to visit Israel, Jordan in September

TEL AVIV (AFP) — U.S. Vice President Al Gore will visit Israel and Jordan in early September to boost development projects between the two neighbours, officials said Friday. The trip follows the first summit between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and King Hussein this week in Washington marking an end of 46 years of war and looking to future cooperation.

### EU welcomes Washington Declaration

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Union (EU) has welcomed the meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on Monday. "The European Union warmly welcomes the meeting of His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Rabin of Israel in Washington on July 25, 1994," an EU statement said. "This meeting, the prior talks between Jordanian and Israeli representatives which took place in the Middle East region itself, as well as the signing of the declaration in Washington represent another important breakthrough in the peace process. The European Union pays tribute to the vision and courage of the Jordanian and Israeli leaders which have made such direct talks and agreements possible. The European Union expressed the hope that, on the basis of the declaration signed in Washington, further negotiations between the two sides on the solution of outstanding questions can be brought to a successful completion in the near future and thus lead to an agreement which would be of paramount importance for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

### Ramadan salutes Saleh's victory

ADEN (R) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan said on Friday his country saluted Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh for his government's victory over a secessionist bid. Mr. Ramadan spoke to reporters before leaving the Yemeni capital Sanaa after a two-day visit. He said that he had conveyed a message to Mr. Saleh from Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein congratulating him "on the victory of unity and the restoration of legality. What has been achieved in Yemen deserves our respect and appreciation." Mr. Saleh had sympathised with Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

### Mayors to be named in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's village mayors will now be appointed by the government rather than elected under a new law aimed at weakening Muslim fundamentalists. Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali gave final approval to the bill which replaces a 50-year-old electoral system and affects 1,700 mayors and 17,000 deputy mayors, the Al-Ahram newspaper reported Friday. Muslim fundamentalists have gained considerable influence in rural villages, particularly in the south. Gen. Ali, wounded in an Islamic militant attempt on his life last year, presented the bill in March to parliament which approved it despite criticism from opposition and human rights groups who deemed it undemocratic. Nominations for mayors and deputies will take place in October and a government committee will then choose from the candidates. Nominees must have "a balanced personality and security awareness," the semi-official paper said.

### Bonn denies reported criticism over Iran

BONN (R) — Germany does not believe it was the target of criticism by the United States of Western allies maintaining close trade links with Iran, the government said on Friday. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Thursday sharply criticised unnamed U.S. allies for failing to join Washington's efforts to isolate Iran for its support of the militant Iran-backed Hizbollah. Mr. Christopher's remarks were interpreted as referring to Japan and Germany, one of Iran's biggest trading partners. But German government spokesman Dieter Vogel told a news conference Bonn did not believe it was the subject of the criticism. "No, the government does not feel affected. And why should we?"

### Iraqi Kurds lift ban on PKK weekly

ARBIL (AFP) — Kurdish authorities in northern Iraq have lifted a ban on the publication of a weekly newspaper run by anti-government Kurdish rebels in Turkey, officials in northern Iraq said Friday. The Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) weekly Welat was first published in northern Iraq soon after the April 1991 Kurdish rebellion against Baghdad. It was banned some time later. Iraqi Kurdish information chief Jammal Haweisi said permission was granted for Welat to reappear because the paper had appointed two publication officials, Hakim Maulut Houssein and Serdar Rasshouli Chidir, thereby complying with Iraqi Kurdish regulations. Mr. Haweisi said he hoped Welat would "treat the Kurdish cause objectively and with realism so that we won't have problems with its publication."

### MEPs to observe trial of Turkish deputies

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Three members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will act as observers in the trial of six Turkish deputies from the Kurdish Democratic Party. European Parliament sources said. The six Turkish deputies are accused of having contact with the outlawed Kurdish separatist movements on Aug. 3 and 4 in Ankara. Two social democrats, Yannis Sakellariou from Germany and Marie van Putten of The Netherlands, along with a German ecologist, Claudia Roth, will make up the European Parliament's delegation. Ms. Roth has asked the European Parliament to provisionally suspend commission meetings between the parliament and Turkish deputies during the period of the trial.

### Simpson trial set for Sept. 20

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyer on Friday suggested there was a mystery witness who could exonerate the former football star and demanded prosecutors turn over investigative reports on the individual before a trial set for Sept. 20. "There is at least one witness who has given testimony or evidence that is totally inconsistent with the theory of a lone assailant, and it's entirely inconsistent with the fact that Mr. Simpson is that assailant," Defence Attorney Johnnie Cochran said. "There are witnesses there that have theories of multiple assailants of different ethnic background than Mr. Simpson that we think should be pursued vigorously." Mr. Cochran added, Deputy District Attorney William Hodgman told Superior Court Judge Lance Ito that police were attempting to pursue that lead, that the witness lives very close to another state and that the prosecution would turn over all reports.

## Two groups claim responsibility for London bombings

Combined agency dispatches

MUSLIM fundamentalist groups have claimed responsibility for the bomb attacks on Israeli and Jewish targets in London that wounded 20 people earlier this week.

An anonymous telephone caller said Friday that the Movement of the Oppressed was prepared to "deal a very heavy blow to countries which cooperate with the Zionist entity" in retaliation for any attack on Lebanon.

The Movement of the Oppressed "claims responsibility for the operations which were carried out in Britain," he said in a call to AFP.

The bomb attacks targeting the Israeli embassy on Tuesday and a Jewish centre early Wednesday were "in response to massacres carried out by the Jews and the Americans," the caller said.

He threatened to "step up" violence on all fronts.

"We pledge to our martyrs and to the martyrs of Islam that we will continue to attack Jewish interests all over the world," he added.

The caller did not mention the bomb attack in Buenos Aires.

In a separate claim of responsibility on Thursday, a statement sent to the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat said the bombings in the British capital were the work of the Palestinian Resistance-Palestine Jaffa team.

London was singled out because of its historic role in the creation of the state of Israel, it said.

Neither group provided any means of proving their claims.

Amsterdam airport police said on Friday they had released without charge four people held for questioning on a tip they may be linked to the week's bombings in London.

"After consultation with the public prosecutor, the four were allowed to continue their journey," police spokesman Alek de Jong told Reuters. He would not say where they were headed.

Britain and Argentina have linked the bombings to Iran, the Iranian-backed Hizbollah and other Muslim fundamentalist organisations.

But President Carlos Menem of Argentina conceded on Thursday that there was no proof of Iranian involvement, while British Prime Minister John Major has also avoided naming a guilty party.

But in Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher urged U.S. allies to isolate Iran economically because of its patronage of "terrorist" groups.

Iran on Friday blasted Mr. Christopher's call, saying Washington was "blinded by hostility" towards Tehran.

## Britain offers debt relief

(Continued from page 1)

bility," the British prime minister said. "It would produce lasting stability — something unknown to anyone now living in the Near East."

"And it would offer the chance of growing prosperity — of increased trade and investment; better communications; and of harnessing the talents and potential of all the countries in the region, including Israel."

Mr. Major also called for an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, recalling that the Naples Summit last month of the Group of Seven industrial nations had sought an end to the decades-old Arab embargo on trade with the Jewish state and a ban on companies that are linked to Israel or with other firms dealing with Israel.

In other comments, Mr. Major said: "The international community must unite against terrorism which is the enemy of all and has been directed against those who seek peace and progress in the Middle East. Terrorism is perpetrated by those who refuse to abide by the rule of law and by the principles of a civilised society," he said.

"We must seek out its perpetrators and bring them to justice," he said. "It is unacceptable for any state to tolerate, let alone support, terrorism. The international community must unite against it."

"The stand taken by the United States is unfounded and irresponsible. It aims to harm Iran's relations with other countries," the Iranian mission at the United Nations said, quoted by Tehran Radio.

"The irresponsible statement from the U.S. secretary of state shows the permanent and blind hostility of the United States towards Iran," it said.

Tehran Radio has accused Israel of carrying out the explosions itself to mobilise Western powers against Iran and Islamic groups opposed to peace with the Jewish state.

"While there is no proof of Iran's involvement in the Argentine bombing, the U.S. Secretary of State condemns Iran under the banner of support for Hizbollah," the radio quoted the Iranian statement as saying.

"Such stands are groundless. They are irresponsible methods to which the U.S. is resorting to upset Iran's relations with other countries," the statement added.

Mr. Major briefed his Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin by telephone Friday on the hunt for the bombers who carried out the anti-Jewish attacks in London, officials said.

Mr. Rabin thanked Mr. Major for the security services' efforts to track down the assassins, and both leaders agreed on the need for coordinated international action to capture them.

In Beirut, the spiritual leader of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, indirectly accused Israel of organising the bombings.

"Iran has absolutely nothing to gain from the attacks — politically or from the publicity aspect — and neither does the Islamic movement in Lebanon. On the contrary, their image has been blackened and they are under increasing pressure," he said in a Friday sermon. "On the other hand, the state of Israel gains world sympathy and revives memories of the massacre of Jews," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel had only "indirect proof" of Hizbollah involvement in the bombings.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina's minister said Thursday he knew who planned the bomb attack on the Jewish charity last week and indicated that a "foreign government" may be involved.

Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, who returned from the United States Thursday, told reporters that authorities knew the names of some of the people in the bombing.

Investigators have concentrated on the vehicle in which the car bomb was placed.



RELIEF: A young Rwandan refugee receives a perfusion by 'Doctors Without Borders' medics Friday as his mother looks on in the Katale camp, some 60 kilometres north of

Goma in Zaire. The humanitarian organisations attempt to curb a cholera epidemic that already claimed the lives of 19,500 refugees in camps around Goma (see page 5) (AFP)

## Arafat vents anger on Palestinian daily

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian self-rule government on Friday ordered a pro-Jordanian newspaper to close.

A day after restricting distribution of the daily Al Nahar, long a supporter of Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) banned it despite outcries against censorship.

"The line of the newspaper contradicts the national interests of the Palestinian people," Nabil Abu Rdaina, a press advisor in Gaza, said in a statement.

Al Nahar publisher Oth-

man Halak told Israel radio that Mohammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian internal security force, ordered the paper shut. The closing of the estimated 5,000-circulation paper leaves the Arab community with just one daily paper, Al Quds.

Nasereedin Nashashibi, a prominent Palestinian journalist, also announced that he was shutting the weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Balad to protest the Palestinian National Authority preventing its circulation.

"I protest this decision of terrorism declared by the ruler of Gaza," Mr. Nashashibi said. "I think Mr. (Yasser) Arafat could practice a more liberal and free attitude toward his political opponents."

An Nahar, which first came out in 1986, had never obtained publishing rights from the PLO, a condition all Palestinian publications have to follow since the mid-1970s, according to a statement issued in Gaza.

"The paper has not complied with conditions... the paper's line was harmful to the Palestinian people's national interest," the statement said, while not mentioning the closure.

"I have been told by reliable sources of the authority's decision to ban distribution of Akhbar Al Balad in the West Bank and Gaza," said Mr. Nashashibi.

"I closed it down, in a sign of resentment at the censorship. I prefer to stop publishing myself rather than have the papers burned, or closed down."

Former Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi, who runs a human rights watchdog committee, said her organisation was following the case.

## Jordan backs PLO quest

(Continued from page 1)

decision which has been taking effect until now.

In the light of the aforementioned facts, there is no contradiction between restoring Arab political sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem through Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and Jordan continuing to play its role in exercising its religious jurisdiction over the Islamic sites.

It is thus clear that the Washington Declaration is only a recognition and a reaffirmation of the role Jordan and the Hashemites have been exercising over a long period of time in history to safeguard Arab and Islamic interests, including the interests of the Palestinian people. Consequently, the Washington Declaration came to reaffirm the Hashemites' right to continue caring for the holy shrines and not a newly-established right in this respect. This right has been most manifest in the Hashemites' restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock in the years 1924, 1944, 1952 and 1994.

Astonished at statements and attitudes taken by some concerning this matter as carried by media reports, Jordan reaffirms that its principled stands regarding holy Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied lands are clear.

These principles are not in need of further clarification as they commit Jordan to continued support of the international legitimacy and U.N. resolutions and the PLO's continued efforts to regain political and geographic sovereignty over all of

the occupied lands of Palestine, including holy Jerusalem.

These principles also reaffirm the Kingdom's determination to continue exercising its historic role with regard to the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

Jordan is at the same time keen on pursuing necessary contacts with other parties in order to reach a formula that would safeguard the higher Islamic interests and protect the holy shrines.

In Washington Minister of Information Jawad Anani on Thursday stressed that the Washington Declaration does not constitute a peace treaty between Jordan and Israel noting that a treaty cannot be concluded without settling all outstanding issues, including demarcation of boundaries and solving four or five other issues included in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

In a televised debate in Washington Thursday night, Dr. Anani said the Washington Declaration "is an important step on the path of reaching a peace treaty after solving all pending issues."

"The options available to us are very narrow and limited and our last selection was carefully studied," Dr. Anani added.

He also said that Jordan could have refused the negotiations, but "are we ready to pay the high price resulting from our refusal?"

He noted that the price "of not having taken our final decision to negotiate with the Israelis would have been much bigger than the price of taking it."

## King ends historic visit

(Continued from page 1)

Israel's recognition of Jordanian borders, territorial and water rights, and Jordan's historical relationship with Jerusalem, as well as the dividends of peace, in terms of economic development and stability, "and you will realise that what His Majesty accomplished here is something that all Jordanians will be proud of," said a senior official.

True that there has been sensitivity with the Palestinians over the inclusion of Jerusalem in an article in the Washington Declaration, said the official. "But His Majesty has made it clear that the Islamic holy places in Jerusalem should belong to the whole Muslim Nation and not to Israel."

The King, in his meeting with the journalists Thursday, said religious and political sovereignty over the holy city were two separate issues. He reiterated that the

Israeli and the Palestinians would resolve the future status of Jerusalem in the final status talks in line with the Oslo accord.

"On the political level, there is an Israeli-PLO agreement on Jerusalem that we are not part of," he said. "But as regards to Islamic holy shrines there, we believe the Islamic Nation should have (religious) jurisdiction over them."

The King went on to explain Jordan's historical ties with the Holy City, since the days the Arab Army under the command of King Abdullah saved them from inevitable occupation by Israel to the 1967 war when Jordanian army officers and soldiers were asked to give up defending the city by the mayor of Jerusalem and other Arabs.

Now, the King asked, can't they (who are criticising Jordan) "acknowledge Jordan's important role in all of this?"

## League accepts explanation

(Continued from page 1)

also the Kingdom's permanent delegate to the league, as emphasising that Jordan's role in the holy places in Jerusalem has never ceased since the founding of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

"The role is aimed at safeguarding the holy places and defending them," Mr. Qadi was quoted as saying. The Kingdom's stand is within the framework of its decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank but to retain its role in the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem, the ambassador pointed out.

Mr. Qadi said the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington Declaration only reaffirmed this Jordanian role and that there should be a clear distinction between political and religious roles over holy places since both aspects have different natures.

"In implementation of Arab and Islamic summit resolutions, especially the 1974 Rabat summit resolution

which emphasised the PLO's status as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the PLO has the right to continue the drive to regain all the occupied Arab lands in Palestine including Arab Jerusalem while Jordan will continue to provide the PLO with all possible support for its efforts to achieve that goal," the ambassador said.

Dr. Abdul Meguid expressed the view that the clause about the holy places in the Washington Declaration "is a reaffirmation of a right and not establishing a new one and therefore the political sovereignty of the PLO, in the light of the Jordanian interpretation, is quite clear."

The Palestine delegate expressed his satisfaction with the Arab League's interpretation and that of the Jordanian ambassador. He said that he would convey the result of the meeting to the Palestinian leadership.

## Peres scales down stand

(Continued from page 12)

in Cyprus, Mr. Peres stressed the need to "improve relations" between peoples and played down the issue of Israeli occupation of Arab territory and Israeli settlers.

When asked how Israel achieved agreements with the PLO and Jordan without withdrawing from occupied Palestinian and Jordanian lands, he took the line adopted by Likud that Israel had largely fulfilled its "withdrawal" obligation under Security Council 242 when it evacuated the Sinai. It did not go down well with the Greek-Cypriot journalists at his press conference as their country, like Israel's Arab neighbours, has been sub-

jected to occupation and colonisation by outsiders. Although Mr. Peres said that all the parties must be prepared to make "concessions for people," he seemed to indicate that Israel was trying to minimise its present "territorial concessions" to, perhaps, the Golan while making arrangements to ensure the position of its settlers in other occupied Arab territories.

When asked about Jerusalem, he stated that the Holy City's future should be "agreed" among the three faiths of Judaism, Islam and Christianity but stated flatly that its political status was a "closed issue."



## Rally in world commodity prices not over yet — analysts

LONDON (R) — World commodity prices, spurred to their highest levels for years by tighter supplies and a massive influx of "hot" money from investment funds, show few signs of running out of steam, analysts say.

"The run-up in prices still has some way to go, especially in the more demand-related commodities like metals," said one senior London-based commodities analyst.

Growing economic recovery in Western Europe and

Japan should keep commodity prices bubbling along, he said, adding that inflationary pressures would stay muted this year.

Among the star performers, coffee is near 8½% higher after two frosts ravaged plantations in Brazil, the world's biggest producer. Coffee traded on the London Commodities Exchange has gained 326 per cent from last year's lows.

On the London Metals Exchange, aluminium has risen 41 per cent, copper by 50 per

cent, platinum by 23 per cent and tin by 23 per cent from their 1993 trough.

A host of other commodities, from palm oil to Australian wool, have notched up similar steep gains, though analysts noted they had all risen from historically depressed levels caused by over-production and large stockpiles.

Some commodities like coffee have already peaked, while others, including cocoa, lead and aluminium, should see further rises, said

Lawrence Eagles, analyst at brokers GNI Ltd.

One of the few dull spots is world grain prices which have fallen on more favourable weather for developing crops in North America.

Analysts said world economic growth was set to accelerate but added that many commodity prices, notably some base metals, had already risen in anticipation of the upturn and so further big gains could be discounted.

Some commodities may start falling if world growth

fails to match expectations or if there is no big dent in stockpiles, GNI's Eagles said.

The key indicator for investors wary a resurgence in inflation is the price of Brent Crude oil, analysts said.

Buoyant demand in the United States, the world's largest oil consumer, and OPEC quota adherence has boosted oil prices to their highest levels in more than a year. However, analysts said they were relaxed about inflation prospects while Brent

Crude fetched less than \$22 a barrel. On Friday it was trading at just over \$18 a barrel.

Commodities represent only 10 per cent in less of total production costs, one noted. Wage rates, rather than raw material prices, are the critical factor where inflation is concerned, said Alec Gordon, the editor of the Economic Intelligence Unit's Commodity Forecasts.

(Continued on page 9)

## Hong Kong sees higher exports to post-war Mideast

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Hong Kong expects peace in the Middle East to open new outlets for its exports as it presses ahead with a worldwide drive to promote its products, a Hong Kong official has said.

"Hong Kong can expect much higher growth in its exports to the Middle East," said Ramzi Raad, Middle East consultant for the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTC).

"This will result not just

from the peace process, which is ending decades of conflict in the region, but from a baby boom generation coming of age and a revolution in mass media and marketing," he pointed out.

Hong Kong's annual promotion drives, covering exhibitions and visits by trade delegations, have sharply boosted its exports to the Middle East, one of the biggest consumer markets in the world. The exports have nearly doubled every four to

five years to reach around \$2.2 billion in 1993.

The bulk of Hong Kong's exports, covering watches and clocks, textile and garments, household appliances and electrical items, go to the oil-rich Gulf countries, which in turn supply the former British colony with crude oil.

The rise in exports has made Hong Kong among the 10 biggest commercial partners of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states —

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE. Japan is their top partner, with their two-way trade standing at nearly \$35 billion in 1993.

"Three quarters of the population in Saudi Arabia is aged under 30 and the entire Middle East has one of the largest proportions of young consumers in the world, ensuring continuing growth of consumer demand," Mr. Raad said.

"More regional trade in

goods and services among the countries of the Gulf was also on the way, with the progress of the GCC. Growing affluence in the region has also created a sizeable market of consumers wanting to buy a wide variety of high quality merchandise."

He said post-war reconstruction in Lebanon and Kuwait were also creating more business for Hong Kong while new opportunities would emerge after most

Gulf states joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

The group would be renamed the World Trade Organisation following its recent free trade accord, to go into effect early next year.

"Hong Kong's exports to the Middle East region are doubling every four to five years but a much higher growth will be achieved under the new economic and political conditions," Mr. Raad said.

## Dollar seen in a stage of correction from a heavily over-sold condition

This report, covering the period from Thursday, July 21, 1994 until Wednesday July 27, 1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch-Dubai.

### Overview

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound from record lows set two weeks ago is not a sign of renewed dollar strength, in our view, but rather a correction from a heavily over-sold condition. Dollar-propping comments from the Fed and administration officials fueled a short-covering rally that was largely the source of recent dollar strength. Without a fundamental change in monetary policy, which we do not expect, the dollar is likely to return to following a downward path against both the mark and the yen.

Indeed, the dollar is already showing signs of renewed weakness against the yen as the U.S. enters into another round of trade negotiations with Japan over government procurement practices. So far, the talks remain at an impasse. We maintain our six-and-a-half-month forecast of JPY/USD 95 and DM/USD 1.50. We caution, however, that over the next six months the dollar could dip below these levels.

Technical view: Aided by particular strength against the European currencies, the U.S. dollar rallied nicely last week, resulting in a 2.1 per cent gain for the dollar index. This was the best performance since last December. Short term momentum is still constructive, and although medium term momentum remains weak, there are signs of stabilisation.

We are inclined to think that a good bottom is not yet in place and that, once this rally runs its course, a test of the recent lows is likely. There appears to be strong support in the 84.00-85.00 area, with most of the bias above 84.80. A rally through next resistance through 90.90 would set the stage for a continuation to 92.83-93.58.

### Japanese yen

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound against the yen was curtailed by signs that yet another round of trade negotiations between the U.S. and Japan will result in an impasse. Recent discussions on Japan's government procurement practices between Sadayuki Hayashi, Japan's deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky made little headway. The U.S. administration has warned that a decision will be made by July 31 as to whether or not Japan has unfair government procurement practices in the areas of telecommunications and medical equipment. If it is determined that Japan does have unfair practices, then the U.S. and Japan will enter a 60-day negotiation period. If a resolution is not found by the end of the 60 days, then the U.S. government will impose sanctions

on goods from the identified categories. That would make Sept. 30 the deadline for any retaliation.

The impact of any such retaliation would be little more than a warning shot as U.S. purchases of Japanese telecommunications and medical equipment are not large. Still, the implications of trade sanctions would not be viewed lightly. The U.S. current account is expected to post a \$130 billion deficit this year matched by an expected Japanese current account surplus of roughly the same magnitude. This differential, accompanied by weak capital outflows from Japan, should pressure the dollar to fall towards our forecast level of JPY/USD 95 in six and twelve months time.

Technical view: The Japanese yen fell 1.0 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 22. Sentiment remains only neutral, but continues to deteriorate. Short term momentum still has a downward bias, but medium term oscillators have begun to strengthen again. Nonetheless, short term divergences have set the stage for a correction back to at least the 100.40-101.40 JY/U.S.\$ area, and perhaps beyond; benchmark support remains at 106-112. Resistance exists near 97.20, then below 93.

### Deutschmark

Fundamental view: The dollar's rebound against the mark beginning two weeks ago has been attributed to a recovery from a very oversold condition. The mark failed to break through the all important DM/USD 1.60 level and has since renewed its downtrend against the dollar. Though real interest rates are currently in favour of the dollar and would be even more so should the Fed tighten by the Aug. 16 FOMC meeting, as we expect, our forecast is that the dollar will be trading lower in six-and-a-half-months time, near the 1.50 level.

Factors depressing the dollar include (1) ongoing deterioration of the U.S. trade and current accounts accompanied by net outflows of long-term capital, (2) low confidence in the U.S. administration's economic and foreign policy, (3) increasing support for Chancellor Kohl, and (4) more confidence in the Bundesbank than the Fed to continue having a hard line on inflation. That said, there is a fair chance that the dollar will continue to be erratic against the mark over the next few months.

Technical view: The Deutschmark lost 2.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Medium term sentiment is at its most overbought level in almost two years. Short term momentum continues to work off its recent overbought condition as it works its way lower. Even medium term oscillators are showing signs of rolling over. However, the uptrend line from the February lows remains intact. A test of the recent highs may still be needed before a true top is in

place. Further weakness through 1.60 DM/U.S.\$ could still allow for 1.616. Strong support exists at 1.48-1.52, but an eventual test of the 1992 high at 1.39 cannot be ruled out. Against the yen, the D-mark failed to penetrate the top end of its May-July trading range and has pulled back below 62 on weak or deteriorating short and medium term momentum. Support is at 59-60. Above the trading range, resistance exists in the area of 65-66.

### Pound sterling

Fundamental view: The British pound plummeted, with the mark, against the dollar before finding support just above U.S.\$/GBP 1.52. Two weeks ago, the pound had followed the mark to a new high of U.S.\$/GBP 1.5732. The pound traded first higher than lower against the mark and ended up back near DM/GBP 2.42. We expect that once the mark resumes its upward path against the dollar the pound will follow and be at U.S.\$/GBP 1.50 in six-and-a-half-months time. Against the mark, the pound should benefit from an expected widening of the interest rate differential at the short end and trade higher at DM/GBP 2.45 in twelve-months time. Increasing signs of stronger growth in the U.K. indicate that short-term rates should begin to rise over the next six months while we still expect another 50 basis point cut in the German discount rate after the October election. Currently, the German repo rate is fixed at 4.85 per cent for the next four weeks. Long-term rates in the U.K., like Germany, should be little changed over the next year.

Technical view: The British pound fell 2.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended July 22. Even though the currency is still in the upper half of its long term trading range, it has managed to retrace almost 50 per cent of its rally from the April lows. Short term momentum is overbought, but remains weak. Even medium term oscillators are beginning to show signs of deterioration. With sentiment at its most overbought level since September 1992, and important resistance at 1.586 U.S.\$/L, we would respect the possibility that a test of the recent highs may only serve to create an important top.

First support exists near \$1.51; the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is second support. The DM cross moved back to near the 2.44 level in recent days, aided by short term momentum which is working off an oversold condition. Medium term momentum is still generally weak, so a retest of at least the recent low may be needed before a good bottom is in place. A break below 2.380-2.393 would set the stage for a test of the 1993 low at 2.326. The breakdown point at 2.475 is resistance.

## Russian investors clamour to unload MMM stock

MOSCOW (R) — Thousands of harried Russian investors packed Moscow stock exchanges Friday, smashing windows as they jostled to unload shares in the troubled MMM investment fund.

MMM's share price slumped on the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange (RCRME) as more investors crowded outside the building.

"There are thousands and thousands of people here. They are breaking through the windows," said Alexander Deduchenko, head of floor trading.

When trade began, the bid price slid from 55,000 roubles, (\$26.69) until, to appraise, one investor picked up 500 shares at just 5,000 roubles (\$2.43) each. The price rose briefly to 8,000 roubles (\$3.88), then fell.

Exchange officials said later MMM was offering to buy the shares at a mere 950 roubles (\$0.46), compared with its pledges earlier this week to buy them back at 115,000 roubles (\$55.8). But an MMM spokeswoman said she had no such information.

Outside MMM headquarters, places near the beginning of the queue to sell the shares at the company's quoted rate were changing hands for millions of roubles (thousands of dollars), ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

MMM, one of the most prominent advertisers on Russian television, was due to resume buying back the shares Friday at offices where the securities had been issued. But a company official said by telephone that the offices had not reopened.

Prices fell to 55,000 Wednesday after MMM suspended its scheme to buy back its shares at most locations, sparking the biggest

scandal yet to shake Russia's emerging financial markets.

At the central universal exchange, the stock traded at 9,000 roubles (\$4.37), head of trading Igor Ilyimikh said, adding that the price could easily fall further.

The price crash followed a series of official public warnings about tax evasion and the company's financial health.

MMM has denied the firm is doing anything wrong. In full-page newspaper advertisements Friday, it continued to insist it had no problems and said its shares could be freely sold at offices in 48 Russian cities.

MMM's press service said in a commentary published in the Delovoy Mir business daily that the firm had met its obligations to its shareholders, who numbered 10 million, to the letter.

"There has not been a single case where MMM had not been able to buy back its shares," the company said.

It accused the government of creating problems where there were none and ended on a defiant note. "Whatever base deeds have been perpetrated, MMM will survive and will become stronger and more popular."

However, Ilya Shikbarov of RCRME's exchange department, said: "This is the end of MMM. No money will save them because they have lost the confidence of investors."

Finance ministry officials likened MMM to a classic pyramid scheme, in which cash from new share purchases is used to buy back old shares at ever-rising prices. But bankers said the scandal was not affecting Russia's other financial markets.

Alexander Livshits, econo-

(Continued on page 9)

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JULY 30, 1994

By Thomas S. Pearson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

### GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You have some fine creative ideas that need to be expressed at the moment. Now is the right time to share them with others and to lay these cards on the table and consult with experts.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is the ideal day to get some special skill perfected. Be careful about taking risks of any kind. Sidestep a troublemaker.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study the situation at home and know how you can best improve it. Evening is fine for entertaining friends and relatives.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a good day for improving routines and gaining cooperation of allies. Avoid one who has been interfering in your affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to add to present income so that you can be happier in the future. Express happiness with your loved one.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study your innermost yearnings and later you can make plans to go after them successfully. Engage in your favourite hobby for peace of mind.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Plan how to improve conditions around you. The evening can be a happy time in

the company of congenial friends and loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Concentrate on how you can improve your environment. Be more active and gain important personal aims which you have a desire for.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Analyse your position well and know where you are headed in financial and property matters. Be logical in your method of operation.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to have better relations with allies in the future and take initial steps toward such. Spend your money wisely.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have important duties to handle now, so don't procrastinate at this time. Take treatments to improve your appearance.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Try to please your associates more and they will do likewise toward you. Take positive steps to gain your aims and goals.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Figure out the best way to improve your surroundings. Situations come up now which can bring benefits you had not expected.

## THE Daily Crossword by Henry Selzhandler

1 Across	1 Down	2 Across	2 Down	3 Across	3 Down	4 Across	4 Down	5 Across	5 Down	6 Across	6 Down	7 Across	7 Down	8 Across	8 Down	9 Across	9 Down	10 Across	10 Down	11 Across	11 Down	12 Across	12 Down	13 Across	13 Down	14 Across	14 Down	15 Across	15 Down	16 Across	16 Down	17 Across	17 Down	18 Across	18 Down	19 Across	19 Down	20 Across	20 Down	21 Across	21 Down	22 Across	22 Down	23 Across	23 Down	24 Across	24 Down	25 Across	25 Down	26 Across	26 Down	27 Across	27 Down	28 Across	28 Down	29 Across	29 Down	30 Across	30 Down	31 Across	31 Down	32 Across	32 Down	33 Across	33 Down	34 Across	34 Down	35 Across	35 Down	36 Across	36 Down	37 Across	37 Down	38 Across	38 Down	39 Across	39 Down	40 Across	40 Down	41 Across	41 Down	42 Across	42 Down	43 Across	43 Down	44 Across	44 Down	45 Across	45 Down	46 Across	46 Down	47 Across	47 Down	48 Across	48 Down	49 Across	49 Down	50 Across	50 Down	51 Across	51 Down	52 Across	52 Down	53 Across	53 Down	54 Across	54 Down	55 Across	55 Down	56 Across	56 Down	57 Across	57 Down	58 Across	58 Down	59 Across	59 Down	60 Across	60 Down
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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**THE BETTER HALF** By Glasbergen

**MARRIAGE COUNSELOR**

"Once I sipped champagne from Harriet's slipper—nearly choked to death on an old bunion pad!"

**JUMBLE** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Miss Angillon

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEAGE

DUSEE

WHONAY

GOTSDY

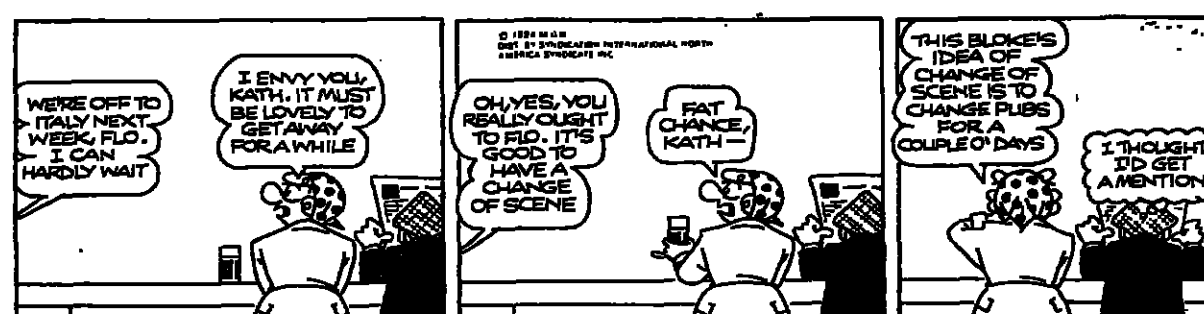
Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FUZZY BOWER BUTTON FACADE

Answer: What she thought of the airline's price increase — UN-FARE!

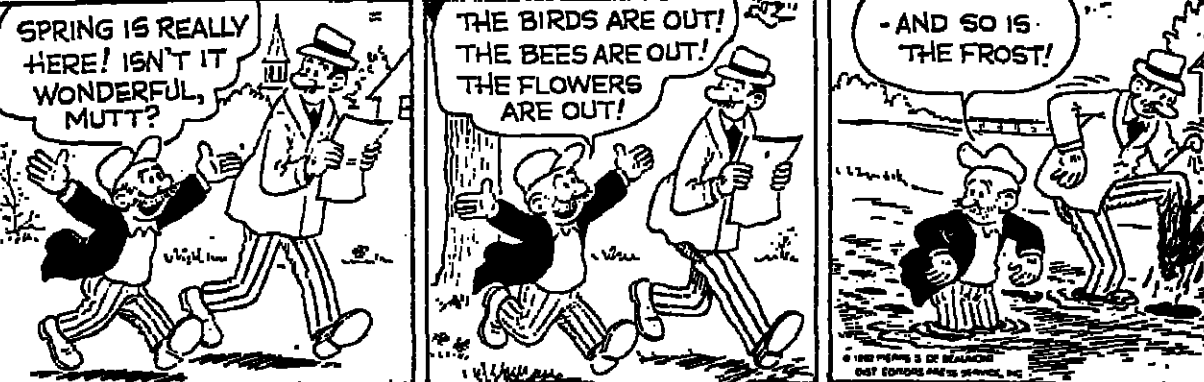
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff









## GOODWILL GAMES

## O'Brien misses world decathlon record

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Dan O'Brien fell short Friday in his bid to break his own world record in the decathlon at the Goodwill Games.

O'Brien, seven points behind record pace going into the final event, needed a time of 4 minutes, 40.92 seconds or less in the 1,500 metres to get the mark.

But he failed to produce the big effort he needed, finishing last in an official 5 minutes, 10.9 seconds.

O'Brien finished the 10-event competition with 8,715 points, 176 points off the record of 8,891 he set in 1992 in Talence, France.

O'Brien began the 1,500 in a jog and quickly fell into last place. After that, he never picked up the pace and appeared content just to finish the race.

It was reminiscent of his performance six weeks ago at Knoxville, Tenn., where he was 14 points ahead of world record pace going into the 1,500, and ran a leisurely 5:16.42. He finished that competition with 8,707 points.

"My legs were tired after the first lap," O'Brien said. "I was just plain old tired. I am a sprinter, not a 1,500-metre runner."

O'Brien started with a bang in his record bid Friday, then tapered off.

He opened by winning the 110-metre hurdles in 13.81 seconds, smashing the American decathlon record for the event and matching his best ever in open competition. He then threw the discus 48.10 metres (157 feet, 10 inches), pole vaulted 4.90 metres (16-0, 3-4) and threw the javelin 62.20 metres (204-1).

Those performances, under steamy weather conditions at Petrovsky Stadium, gave O'Brien a total of 8,217 points, with one event remaining.

But the 1,500 metres has always been one of O'Brien's weaker events.

"If the day is like today, I will be tired when I get to the 1,500," O'Brien said Thursday after compiling 4,736 points in the opening five events, putting him 16 ahead of his pace of two years ago.

"I'm not a distance runner," O'Brien's first-day total was the second-best legal score ever, behind the 4,738 he had at Knoxville. O'Brien accumulated 4,747 points in the 1991 U.S. Championships in New York, but the mark was negated because there was no wind gauge for the

100 metres.

With Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus skipping the Goodwill Games to prepare for next month's European Championships at Helsinki, Finland, O'Brien had no one to push him. After the first day, he had a 623-point lead over fellow American Steve Fritz.

"I feel good about Goodwill because I'm not competing against Hamalainen, so there's not an extreme amount of pressure to defend my title or go head-to-head against him often," O'Brien said.

"It gives me an opportunity to concentrate on the things I need to do instead of always looking out and saying, 'I've got to beat this guy or that guy to hold onto my No. 1 ranking.' There's no Eduard Hamalainen nipping at my heels."

"I like the fact that I'm competing against myself. I will try not to put much pressure on myself. I want to stay relaxed."

After a shaky start Thursday, O'Brien stayed relaxed by listening to music, including Queen's "We are the Champions" and the rap group Heavy D. and the Boys.

The tapes, along with unexpectedly strong performances by his competition in the high jump, pumped up O'Brien into a record effort.

He cleared 2.20 metres, matching the American decathlon record set by Jack Hoyt at Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1991. That brought O'Brien from 145 points off world record pace to 21 back after four events. He then went ahead by winning the 400 metres in 47.73 seconds.

Prior to that, he had won the 100 in 10.49, the long jump at 7.81 metres (25-7, 1-2) and the shot put at 15.70 (51-6, 1-4).

Thursday's other track winners included 1991 world champion Michael Johnson in the 200 at 30.10, equalling the year's fastest time and a games' record; world record-holder Colin Jackson of Britain in the 110-metre hurdles at 13.29; world and Olympic champion Heike Drechsler of Germany in the women's long jump at 7.12 metres (23-4, 1-2); C.J. Hunter in the men's shot put at 20.35 (66-9, 1-4); and 1993 world champion Maria Mutola of Mozambique in the women's 800 at 1:57.63, the year's fastest.

## Puerto Rico set for world championships after winning gold at Goodwill Games

## U.S. Goodwill team to play Dream Team II

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The Puerto Ricans cannot wait to get to Toronto for next month's World Basketball Championships, confident after winning gold at the Goodwill Games.

The bronze-medal U.S. Goodwill team may not be quite as anxious to get to its next stop. The young college team plays Sunday in Oakland against the U.S. national basketball team. Based on how the Americans played in St. Petersburg, this one could be messy.

"We looked to the Americans as the favourite," said Puerto Rico coach Carlos Morales. "But they probably weren't as strong as they could have been. They're still a good team but didn't play up to what we expected."

"Puerto Rico established itself as a medal contender in Toronto. We think we can use this as a springboard for what lies ahead," Morales said. "We will have high morale in the world championships."

Thursday's gold medal was the first medal of any kind in basketball for the Puerto Ricans, who will arrive in Canada with one of the tournament's most experienced teams. Puerto Rico was fourth in the 1994 Olympics and fourth again at the world championships in 1990.

Morales called Puerto Rico's 69-65 semifinal victory Wednesday over Russia "the greatest win in the history of Puerto Rico basketball."

"The win tonight (Thursday) was one for history. We'll definitely be partying," he said of the 94-80 win over Italy. Jerome Minix had 20 for Puerto Rico and Orlando Vega added 18.

The goodwill team's apparent mismatch with the U.S. national basketball team was not supposed to be. The game Sunday in Oakland was put together when it looked like the team would have the nation's top collegiate players. It did not. Four of the 12 players picked dropped out, and many of this year's best

collegiate players turned professional rather than finish college and were not available.

That left the Americans with a good team, but Puerto Rico with the gold medal. The Americans' bronze kept them from being the first U.S. team to fail to win a medal at a major tournament since the Pan Am games in 1971.

The U.S. was battering the Russians and led 51-41 after Michael Finley slammed home a rebound with 14:45 to play. The slam also snapped a spring in the break-away basket, which it took technicians 40-minutes to fix (see separate story).

The Russians stormed back, grabbing the lead at 60-59 on two free throws by Sergei Bazarevich with 6:17 to play.

Shawn Respert saved the Americans. He came off the bench with about seven minutes left and hit all of his 11 points down the stretch, three on 3-pointers. Argentina defeated Brazil 63-53 in the fifth-place game, and Croatia beat China 78-77 for seventh.

## Broken rim causes delay

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Replacing a basketball rim in Russia is no easy task.

It took about a dozen men, two ladders and 40 minutes to fix a rim that snapped during the U.S.-Russia bronze medal game Thursday at the Goodwill Games.

American Michael Finley pulled down the rim while jamming in a rebound, snapping a coiled spring. The broken spring flew from the rim like a bullet and it was fortunate that no one was hit.

Asked by a Russian reporter after the match what would have happened under the same circumstances in the United States, U.S. coach George Raveling said, "We would have rolled out one basket and rolled in another."

It's not that simple in Russia, as occasional slip-ups at the Goodwill Games have shown.

A back-up basket was available, but what was not available was a ramp to roll it from one side of the Lenin Sport and Concert Complex to the other.

Sq both rims had to be screwed in and out of place, leaving both teams time to cool off.

"It helped the Russians more because they were losing and tired at the time and we were in control," Raveling said.

The United States held a 10-point edge when the rim came down with 14:45 to play. With 6:17 left, the cold-shooting Americans fell behind by a point but they rallied to win 80-71.

## Lebanon's Homentmen wins Al Jazireh Women's Basketball Championship title

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Homentmen of Lebanon Thursday won the Al Jazireh International Women's Basketball Championship after winning all its matches during the week-long tournament.

Al Jazireh of Syria occupied the second place, followed in third place by Jordan's Al Jazireh.

In its last match played Thursday at Al Hussein Youth City's Sports Palace, Homentmen beat Kefalovryssos of Cyprus 64-27. Homentmen guaranteed taking the title even before its last match since it has beaten the two other top contenders, Al Jazireh and Al Jazireh. The Cypriot team ranked last among the five competing teams. The West Bank select team was fourth with one win over the Cypriot team.

Also Thursday, Al Jazireh lost to Al Jazireh 51-46 in the tournament's last match held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Youth Minister Fawaz Abul Ghanam deputised for Her Majesty at the match.

The match was decisive for both teams which were struggling to win the second place.

Al Jazireh started scoring but lost the lead fast for the Al Jazireh which kept on

closing the defence area in front of Al Jazireh's Suhair Maqousi and Ramia Dajani.

In spite of efforts by Al Jazireh to stop the determined Al Jazireh's attack, Maqousi tied the game 22-22.

Maqousi, who was injured and sent out on a stretcher, was replaced by Rana Hussein who gave Al Jazireh the lead to end the first half 26-24.

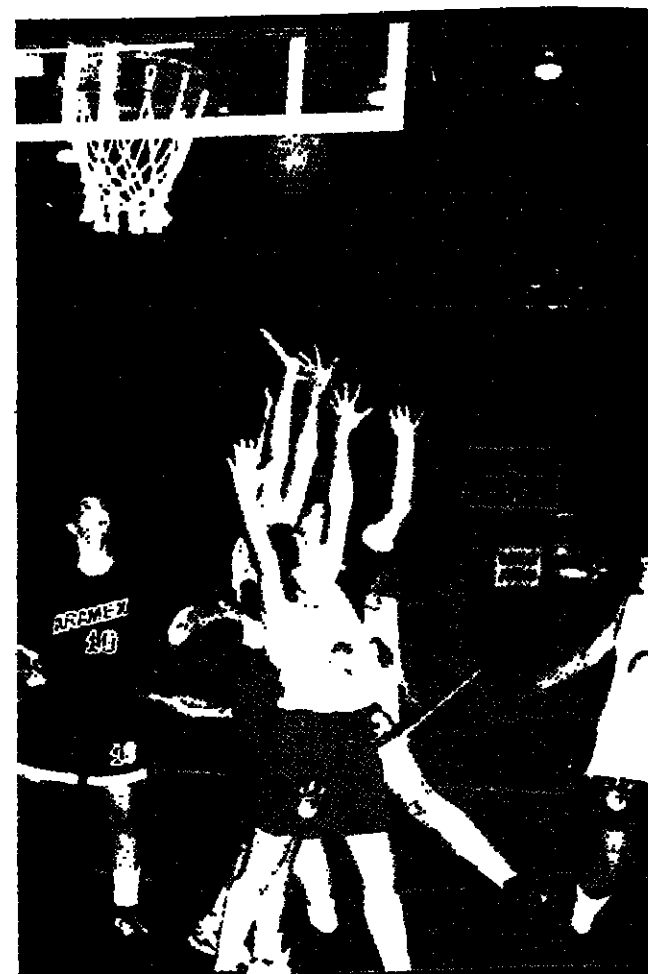
Al Jazireh came in a strong form in the second half, putting pressure on Al Jazireh's defence to end the match with a 51-46 win and to reserve the second place behind Homentmen.

Emma Beglarian of Homentmen won the MVP (most valuable player) title in the tournament and Jumanah Salti won the best defensive player title.

Carla Maghafari of Al Jazireh won the best offensive player title and Luci Thaljiyeh for best attitude and finally the sportsmanship title went to the Cypriot team.

Al Jazireh's coach Fadi Sabah said that this tournament, the first of its kind, will give our players the experience they need for future meetings with other teams.

Al Jazireh's Hussein added that the team needs more exposure to gain experience.



Al Jazireh's Rana Hussein (13) scores a two-pointer as three Al Jazireh players attempt to block her. Jumanah Salti (10), who won the best defensive player title, looks on.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Colak skips country before warrant

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish soccer star Tanju Colak flew to Macedonia less than 24 hours before an arrest warrant was issued following his 22-month sentence for car smuggling, it was reported Thursday.

An appeals court July 21 upheld Colak's sentence, which included a 772 million lira fine (\$23,000), and the Turkish daily Hurriyet reported that an arrest warrant was issued for Europe's leading scorer during the 1987-1988 season Thursday. Colak said he had left the country in order to represent Turkey one last time playing in a world all-stars game against Russia in St. Petersburg Aug. 7. "I'm not sure if I will return to Turkey," Colak wrote in a fax sent to the Turkish press, adding he was waiting to have his sentence lifted by president Suleyman Demirel. The sentence effectively ended Colak's soccer career because Turkish law forbids anyone convicted of certain crimes, including smuggling, from playing professionally again.

## Shoe wars continue

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — The shoe wars continue. Nike timed it right to open its first shop in St. Petersburg in the middle of the Goodwill Games — where rival Reebok is one of the major sponsors. Nike opened its shop Friday on Nevsky Prospect, the main street of the city and site of numerous commercial establishments.

With the latest opening, St. Petersburg residents have their choice of Nike, Reebok and Adidas shoes to choose from. A pair of good running shoes could cost them close to the equivalent of a month's salary for an average Russian: About \$100.

## Games' flags disappear

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Thieves are pulling down Goodwill Games flags all over St. Petersburg. Police said more than half of the flags set up around the city have been stolen already, and the games are less than a week old. People are climbing roofs and flag poles to get at the flags.

## Brazil's England day

LONDON (AFP) — World champions Brazil have agreed to take part in a six-nation football tournament in England next summer. Japan, among the favourites to host the 2002 World Cup, will also compete in the event, to be staged at Wembley and other venues involved in the 1996 European Championship finals. Glen Kinton, director of organisers Euro '96, said: "Invitations have gone out to a number of countries. Brazil and Japan have accepted and it would also be attractive if we had another country from the British Isles and top nations from Europe and Africa." Around 100,000 tickets have already been sold for European finals matches.

## Cartwright for Kuwait

LONDON (AFP) — Former Arsenal coach John Cartwright, currently managing London neighbours Charlton Athletic's youth team, is to embark on his third coaching spell with the Kuwait Sporting Club.

## Klinsmann moves to Tottenham

LONDON (R) — German striker Juergen Klinsmann became Tottenham's second glamour capture of the week Friday, signing for the London club for £2 million (\$3.04 million) from French side Monaco.

Chairman Alan Sugar, holidaying on his yacht off the south of France, completed top-secret negotiations.

But he scored five goals in the finals, catching the eye as he had done four years earlier when he helped his country lift the World Cup in Rome.

His signing represents another coup for Sugar and manager Ossie Ardiles, who were later Friday unveiling (\$3.95 million) Romanian midfield recruit Ilie Dumitrescu.

rescu at White Hart Lane. "Alan Sugar did the deal for Klinsmann in Monaco this morning," said club spokesman Nick Hewer. "The fee was two million pounds and the player has signed a two-year deal."

Tottenham start the new season minus six points, after being found guilty of making irregular payments to players.

They were also fined £1.5 million (\$2.28 million) and banned from this season's Football Association (F.A.) Cup.

Sugar said: "Juergen is looking for a challenge and has decided it is Tottenham which interests him most." Apart from also signing Dumitrescu from Steaua Bucharest, Tottenham have been chasing similarly-priced Brazilian defender Marcio Santos, of Bordeaux, and compatriot Mulder, of Sao Paulo.

## Martinez advances in Vermont

STRATTON MOUNTAIN, Vermont (R) — Conchita Martinez of Spain is far different than the player who won the \$400,000 Acura U.S. hardcourts title here last year.

"I'm much more confident now," Martinez said Thursday, after cruising into the quarterfinals following a long rain delay.

She crushed Karin Kschwendt of Germany, 6-2, 6-0 in 53 minutes. Last year at the Paris Indoors, Martinez was pushed to three sets by Kschwendt before winning, 6-3 5-7 6-3.

It was the only match completed as rain and fog played havoc with the programme.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HERSH  
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THE MAGIC FIT?

East-West vulnerable, West deals.	
NORTH	♠ 9 7
	♥ 2
	♦ K Q 7 6 4
	♣ A 7
WEST	♠ A 10 4 3
	♥ J 10 5
	♦ A 10 8
	♣ J 8 2
EAST	♠ K 8 6
	♥ A 7 6 4 3
	♦ 9 2
	♣ K 5 3
SOUTH	♠ J 5 2
	♥ K Q 9 8
	♦ J 5 3
	♣ Q 10 9

The bidding:  
West North East South  
Pass Pass 1♣ Pass  
2♥ 2♠ Pass 2♠

Opening lead: Jack of ♣  
Check any of Eddie Kantar's books and you'll find he recommends a combined holding of at least eight cards as the minimum for a trump suit. So what was he doing at the recent Summer North American Championships in Washington, D.C., playing a hand with six-card trump suit split evenly between his hand and dummy?

North's initial pass is not to everyone's taste. Certainly, had the length been in the majors rather than the minors most players would have opened. Since North chose not to, a takeout double on the second round was clearly the right action. Had South responded two no trumps, North-South would probably have settled in a diamond partial, which would have been touch and go.

Against two spades West led the jack of hearts. Despite the singleton in dummy, East would have done well to withhold the ace and allow declarer to win the trick. Not only did East rise with the ace, but the defender further abetted South's cause by shifting to a club, declarer's queen winning.

The king and queen of hearts were cashed for two club discards from dummy and then the nine of hearts was played. West elected to ruff with the ten and dummy overruffed with the queen. The king of diamonds test in the ace and West continued to give comfort to declarer by cashing the ace of spades and continuing with a spade to East's king.

East reverted to clubs, the table's ace winning. Declarer came to hand with the jack of diamonds, drew both missing trumps with the jack and dummy's diamonds took the rest of the tricks. Making three-odd. Who needs trumps!

## Body Reform

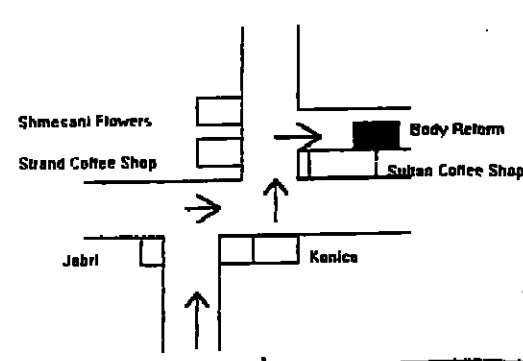
## Natural BeautyProducts

The End of the Summer is near!! Come to Body Reform **Now** and take advantage of our Wonderful Summer offer.

Come to Body Reform and Buy one Sun Protection and One Aftersun Moisturizer and get a **FREE** Lip Balm.

This offer is good beginning Saturday July 30 until August 2 !!!

Come and Protect Yourself Today!!!



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## What a concept! INCREDIBLE! down to basics!

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# Sports

## Agassi wins war against Wheaton at Toronto Open

TORONTO (R) — Andre Agassi, working to match his popularity with his ranking, moved into the quarterfinals of the \$1.72 million Canadian Open tennis tournament with a tough 3-6 6-1 7-6 (9-7) victory over fellow-American David Wheaton Thursday.

In another third-round contest, 14th-seeded Maliwai Washington upset third-seeded Michael Chang 6-4 6-4.

The 20th-ranked Agassi, 24, was ranked as high as third in the world back in 1988 and continued his top 10 progress for five years.

But injuries last year helped lower his ranking.

"I haven't felt this good about my game in a couple of years," Agassi said after the two-hour, 10 minute match. "I feel I'm moving well. It was very close but I felt great the way I played."

The 68th-ranked Wheaton, inactive the first three months of the year with a hip injury, took the first set by breaking Agassi in the eighth game.

At deuce, Agassi double-faulted and then Wheaton hit a winning forehand return to go ahead 5-3.

Agassi was all over Wheaton in the second set, taking a 5-0 lead before Wheaton held serve at love in the sixth game.

The third set was all-out war.

Agassi took a 4-2 lead but Wheaton raced back even eventually sending the match into a final set tiebreak.

There were nine mini-breaks in the 16 point tiebreak.

Agassi staved off two Wheaton match points on the 12th and 14th points before winning his one match point on the final point when Wheaton smashed a backhand half volley wide.

"I felt I won the match even though I lost," Wheaton said of his high calibre performance. "Overall, I felt I did my best out there. The whole match I played very competitively and I'm very happy with that."

The sixth-ranked Chang was effectively challenged by the 35th-ranked Washington's strong groundstrokes during the one hour, 39 minute match.

"I was able to beat him doing what he does best," said Washington, who trailed Chang 5-1 in career meetings going into Thursday's encounter. "There were not many points won from the



Andre Agassi

net. I was happy I was able to play strong from the baseline."

Washington broke Chang's serve in the opening game of the match and in the third game of the second set to secure his victory.

Chang was particularly weak on his second serve, winning only 48 per cent of the points on his second attempts.

Washington also scored 27 outright winners to Chang's 17 in the match.

"I wasn't able to force the issue as much as I wanted to," Chang said. "I was a little rusty."

## Sydney picks Olympics supreme until Atlanta

SYDNEY (AFP) — The organising committee of Sydney's 2000 Olympics ended a difficult nine-month search for an executive head Friday by appointing its own president Gary Pemberton — at least until the Atlanta Olympics.

Pemberton, who is also chairman of Qantas Airways and of Brambles Industries transport group, said here Friday his appointment as executive president would be reviewed in December 1996, which he described as "a sensible provision."

Australian Olympic officials have felt there might be a need to split the job in two, one job running to Atlanta and the other to take the games to the conclusion in 2000.

The conditions of Pemberton's appointment — and of all other directors of the Sydney organising committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) — allows the option to appoint people with different skills for the last leg.

But he was non-committal about whether he would like the job longer, saying: "We'll take that as it comes."

His appointment follows a string of setbacks for the SOCOG including the decision of one candidate six weeks ago to pull out the day before his appointment was to be announced.

Pemberton said in June the salary had been a consideration in the candidate's decision and that more — possible one million dollars — would have been expected for the equivalent job in the private sector.

But he told a news conference Friday he was "comfortable" with a salary of 350,000 Australian dollars (\$258,000) a year — \$50,000 less than what had been offered to the last candidate — and had personally thought \$400,000 was a bit much.

"I had a bit of a sense that it should be a little below that and I was very comfortable with it (\$350,000)," said Pemberton, who is one of Sydney's better paid corporate leaders.

He will retain his positions as Qantas chairman and chairman of Brambles Industries Ltd, but is stepping

down from other directorships with sugar group CSR Ltd and the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

Pemberton, who has been president of SOCOG since it was set up nine months ago, said he could foresee the need for much hard work and attention to detail.

He also described it as the most challenging job he had ever had, adding: "A lot of the issues are less tangible than the issues that a chief executive of a commercial organisation faces."

"But I think at this stage some of the important issues are very much tactical and strategic and they involve a big incentive to get ourselves organised as quickly as possible."

The demanding circuit and the heat could give Schumacher his best chance Sunday.

"Whatever happens I will be doing my best," said the German. "I owe it to my supporters."

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"But I think at this stage some of the important issues are very much tactical and strategic and they involve a big incentive to get ourselves organised as quickly as possible."

The demanding circuit and the heat could give Schumacher his best chance Sunday.

"Whatever happens I will be doing my best," said the German. "I owe it to my supporters."

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## Hill and Berger issue warning to Schumacher

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Britain's Damon Hill shrugged off a hostile reception here Friday to reception Michael Schumacher by almost a second in official practice for Sunday's German Grand Prix.

Hill was whistled by thousands of spectators when he negotiated the Hockenheim circuit, recording 1min 44.02sec, the fastest lap of the day in his Williams-Renault.

"We shouldn't get carried away," he said. "Everybody goes a bit faster in Saturday's practice."

Gerhard Berger of Austria in a Ferrari clocked 1:44.616 for second place ahead of local hero Schumacher, the world championship leader who has appealed against a two-race ban for ignoring a black flag at the recent British Grand Prix won by Hill.

He was third fastest in his Benetton-Ford in 1:44.875 with Jean Alesi of France, Berger's Ferrari teammate, fourth in 1:45.272.

"The practices went pretty much as we expected," said Schumacher. "We didn't expect to be fastest, because the track here is made for speed and we are at a disadvantage because of that."

Banned by the FIA, the sport's world governing body, Schumacher has launched an appeal so as not to disappoint Sunday's sell-out crowd of 150,000 here.

He is allowed to continue racing until the appeal is heard on Aug. 28.

Should the ban uphold or even increased, Hill, number two in the world championship, could dramatically whittle down Schumacher's lead.

Schumacher, third in 1992 and second last year here, is pessimistic about his chances of beating Hill, almost a second faster in practice.

On Sunday, the German will also be under pressure from Berger and Alesi. Ferrari and Williams-Renault are using new engines which have proved more powerful, then the Ford in Schumacher's Benetton.

Hockenheim, with its very long straight and few corners, favours brute engine power over flexibility, which Hill used this to advantage in practice.

But reliability remains the problem for the Ferraris. Berger's V12 engine broke down at one stage and Alesi ran out of fuel.

The demanding circuit and the heat could give Schumacher his best chance Sunday.

"Whatever happens I will be doing my best," said the German. "I owe it to my supporters."

## McRae leads N. Zealand Rally after Sainz quits

ROTORUA, New Zealand (R) — British driver Colin McRae led the rally of New Zealand at the end of Friday's first day after world championship leader Carlos Sainz had to pull out.

McRae won the first stage and then, during the middle part of the day, made a charge over the wet, slippery gravel roads to finish the first leg 44 seconds ahead of world champion Juha Kankkunen of Finland.

Subaru driver McRae, whose only world championship victory was in this event last year, is under considerable pressure, having suffered setbacks this year including crashes and a disqualification from the Acropolis Rally.

McRae said before the start he had resolved to be a bit more cautious this time and concentrate on finishing. But, as one of his crew said: "Being careful for Colin is different from other people's ideas of careful."

The pressure increased when Subaru team leader Sainz had to quit on stage five with engine problems.

"I need Colin to win for me," said Sainz.

Victory for McRae would reduce the number of points the Spaniard's championship pursuers could gain from the event, the seventh round of 10 in the world championship.

Subaru suffered a further setback in the following stage when New Zealander Possum Bourne, running fifth, spun and slid down a bank. The car was undamaged but the crew could not get it back on the road.

Kankkunen, who survived a spin on stage seven which damaged his Toyota Celica slightly, was closely pursued through the day by his French teammate Didier Auriol and at the end of the day was just seven seconds ahead of him.

Fourth, nearly a minute behind Auriol, was Ford's substitute driver Ari Vatanen of Finland, driving the Escort Cosworth in the absence of the injured Francois Delecour.

Vatanen also recovered from a spin, but he and Ford colleague Miki Biasion of Italy felt their cars were slightly down on power running on different fuel from usual.

One second behind Vatanen was German Armin Schwarz, showing that the Mitsubishi Lancer is now a contender for the top placings.

Schwarz' teammate, Swede Kenneth Eriksson, had been matching his times almost to the second but fell back to eighth equal with differential problems.

Sixth was Biasion and seventh young British champion Richard Burns in another Subaru.

The rally finishes in Auckland Sunday.

## Andretti says speed record in jeopardy

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Mario Andretti says his all-time qualifying record of nearly 235 kph (377 mph) is in jeopardy as practice got under way Friday for Sunday's Marlboro 500.

Andretti, who set an all-time auto racing qualifying record of 234.275 mph (376.946 kph) in winning the pole for last year's 500-mile (800-kilometre) race at Michigan International Speedway (MIS), said Thursday, "For sure, that record will be broken."

"In my mind, there is no question about it. Our cars are working well enough to go faster and, certainly, we are squeezing more power out of the engines."

Andretti and Newman-Haas racing teammate Nigel Mansell, the defending race and series champion, are co-favorites to win the pole in nearly identical Ford Cosworth-powered Lola's.

Mansell, whose oval experience going into last year's race on the 2-mile, (3.2-kilometre) high-banked Michigan track consisted of some practice and a crash at Phoenix, a victory in Milwaukee and a third-place in the Indianapolis 500, was awed by the speeds at MIS.

"The Michigan track is just awesome," Mansell said. "The speeds we are running here are incredible. Not only are we averaging over 230

mph (368 kph) per lap, we are doing 250 (400 kph) mph, 400 kph) on the straights."

"I don't mind telling you I find that amazing and incredible. I certainly had not experienced anything like it before."

Team Penske's trio of driving stars — Al Unser Jr., Emerson Fittipaldi and Paul Tracy — have dominated the season, winning seven of nine races among them. But Unser's win at Indy, one of his series-leading five triumphs this year, came in a Penske car powered by a push-rod type Mercedes-Benz engine.

That power plant, which reportedly produced up to 150 more horsepower than the conventional Indy V8s, was used only at Indianapolis, which is sanctioned by the U.S. Auto Club. The rest of the series is run by Indycar and the Mercedes engine must conform to different rules that cut its power considerably.

Still, the Penske cars, which will be powered by conventional Indycar V8s at Michigan, are expected to be competitive this weekend, particularly in the race.

"I think the Fords will out-qualify us," Unser said. "Indycar has made tremendous gains, but the engine still doesn't quite equal the Ford Cosworth at the top end of the power band. That's where the Fords are at their best. If the weather's at all in their favour, which means on the cool side, the top Fords will beat us to the pole."

"If it's a hot day, I believe we'll be able to compete with them. The same for race day."

Unser may not get his wish, and the speeds are likely to soar, with the national weather service forecast calling for a relatively cool weekend, with highs around 26-28 degrees Celsius (high 70s to low 80s Fahrenheit) on Saturday and 29 Celsius (85 Fahrenheit) on race day.

### Bekanntmachung für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 16. Oktober 1994 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und hier keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für die Wahlteilnahme ist u.a. Voraussetzung, daß sie

1. nach dem 23. Mai 1949 und vor ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland\*) mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland\*) gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;
2. a) in Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder b) in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltag seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland\*) nicht mehr als zehn Jahre verstrichen sind;
3. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 26.09.1994 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 18 Abs. 1 der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie Informierende Merkblätter können

- von den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
  - vom Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, D-65180 Wiesbaden,
  - von den Kreiswahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
- angefordert werden.

Weitere Auskünfte erteilen die Botschaften und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland (Tel. 689 351, ext. 80)

Amman im Juli 1994

Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland  
P.O. Box 183, 11118 Amman  
sonntags bis donnerstags von 8.00 - 12.00 Uhr

\*) Zu berücksichtigen ist auch eine frühere Wohnung oder ein früherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einbürgerungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen) zuzüglich des Gebietes des früheren Berlin (DDR).

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## Peres scales down Golan stand, restates tough line

From Michael Jansen in Nicosia

IN A CLIMB-down from an announcement he made on July 13 that "Israel has always considered the Golan Heights as Syrian territory," Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in private conversation with this correspondent during a three-day visit to Cyprus, admitted, "I was speaking of past-Israeli government policy but not of present policy."

He explained that in the wake of the 1967 war, Israel has made it clear that it was "prepared to return to the borders" once its demands for water rights and security were met.

Mr. Peres' July 13th proclamation, made on the eve of a visit to the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, was described by the U.S. as "far-reaching" and seen as an attempt to encourage Damascus to make the sort of concessions needed to revitalise the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, stalled since the February 25 massacre of Muslim worshippers at Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

But Mr. Peres' words did not achieve the hoped for breakthrough in the talks with Syria and caused a storm of protest among supporters of Golan settlers in Israel prompting Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin to State: "Israel does not recognise Syrian sovereignty over the Golan."

Sources close to Mr. Peres reported that he had obtained Mr. Rabin's "full support" prior to the declaration. Mr. Rabin's desertion of his foreign minister under fire has hardly surprised as the two men have long been political rivals.

Israel Radio reported on Thursday that this rivalry flared into antagonism during the celebrations in Washing-

ton on the signing of the document ending the state of war between Israel and Jordan because Mr. Peres, considered "the architect of the peace process," was sidelined by Mr. Rabin and the Clinton administration.

In spite of such reversals, both political and personal, Mr. Peres stated that there was reason for optimism with regard to the resumption of Syrian-Israeli talks. First, he said, Syria had been "restrained in its reaction" to the signing of the Jordan-Israel document. This contrasted sharply with its outright condemnation of the Oslo accord with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Second, the Syrians reaffirmed their sincere intention to make peace during recent meetings with Mr. Christopher and, third, Mr. Peres stated that he was "encouraged by the condemnation of the London bombings by Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouk Al Sharaa."

Mr. Peres said, however, that the two sides had not yet been able to agree on the "means" to resume bilateral meetings or the "subjects" of discussion. On means he said that on all three tracks — the Syrian, PLO and Jordanian — there had been both public and private meetings before progress was achieved but Syria had not agreed to follow this procedure. On substance he asserted that there were three issues to discuss: The nature of peace, which the Syrians insist, was settled when President Hafez Al Assad described what they meant by peace to U.S. President Bill Clinton in January; security arrangements which have reportedly been agreed; and Israeli withdrawal, which Israel argues must be partial, "on" the Golan while Damascus demands must be "from" the entirety of the Golan.

At a press conference Thursday, Mr. Peres stated that Israel did not seek any delay or postponement of discussions with Syria because Israel "wants a comprehensive peace that will comprise all the parties" to the conflict. However, the "good cop-bad cop" approach to peacemaking is practised by Mr. Peres, offers concessions and Mr. Rabin who takes them away only increases Syrian suspicions of their intentions.

Israel radio has reported that Syria and Lebanon were prepared to resume talks with Israel in a joint delegation while authoritative Israeli and Palestinian sources in Jerusalem have said that Israel is preparing its public opinion for "complete" withdrawal from the Golan, though timing of such a commitment was not yet certain.

Reacting to the bombings of Israeli and Jewish premises in Britain and Argentina, Mr. Peres said his country would take both "punitive" and "preventive" action. He stated that Tehran is both "financing and supporting" the Lebanese Shiite Hizbollah movement, widely believed to be behind the bombing campaign. Israel did not yet "have any detailed information" about Iranian complicity "but we will get it. Iran's denials" of responsibility, he stated, "are not worth a penny." The Lebanese army has mobilised in the south to repel any Israeli military attack on Lebanese targets while the Israeli press has reported, since early this year, that Israel was preparing to take direct action against Tehran for its sponsorship of "fundamentalist terrorism." The latest bombings could be the pretext for such action.

In all his public statements

(Continued from page 7)

## Yemen cabinet expected in early August — report

ADEN (Agencies) — A new Yemeni cabinet will be formed shortly and its southern members will all be figures who openly opposed the south's civil war bid for secession, a Sanaa newspaper reported on Friday.

The paper, May 22, quoted political sources as saying a government to replace the present caretaker cabinet and oversee post-war reconstruction was expected in early August.

The newspaper, which is identified with President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) party, said the ministers would be mostly technocrats and 75 per cent of them would be newcomers.

It gave no hint who would head the country's third government since the 1990 union between North and South Yemen.

The cabinet has been headed by Acting Prime Minister Muhammad Said Al Attar of the GPC since the

sacking of Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, who supported the separatist southern cause in the two-month civil war that ended on July 7.

The newspaper said the government would be formed along existing party lines but would exclude any member of the southern Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) "who did not declare clear and unambiguous opposition to the secession."

Ali Salem Al Beidh, who headed the YSP and served as Mr. Saleh's vice-president during the four-year union, fled abroad when the north won the war.

But with 56 seats in the 301-member parliament, the YSP remains officially the third pillar of the coalition government with the GPC, the dominant parliamentary bloc, and Islah, an umbrella group of Islamists.

U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi said northern

and southern Yemeni leaders agreed on the need to continue reconciliation talks after a three-hour meeting in Geneva Thursday.

Mr. Brahimi said no date had been fixed for further talks and recognised that the two sides were still divided over the organisation of dialogue in the wake of their two-month civil war.

The two sides also agreed during face-to-face talks to keep in touch with Mr. Brahimi, who tried to broker a dialogue during the war.

Sanaa was represented by Planning Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani, while the southern side was represented by Mr. Attas.

Yemeni diplomats had said earlier that northern authorities would refuse to hold talks with representatives of the former breakaway south, insisting that discussions should be held in Yemen.

But Mr. Brahimi dismissed this as "speculation."



BLAST IN MADRID: Spanish plainclothes policemen investigate the remains of the car used by Spanish General Francisco Vespillo after, powerful bomb killed him, his driver and a bodyguard early Friday. The bomb,

planted by Basque separatist group ETA exploded in central Madrid killing three and injuring 10 (see inside) (AFP photo)

## Lebanese media resume newscasts

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Private radio and television stations resumed newscasts Friday under a new law abolishing state restrictions that had muzzled nongovernment broadcasters for the last four months.

"Hello again and our apology for the news interruption forced on us," said George Yazbek, chief radio announcer at Voice of Lebanon, the country's oldest privately owned stations.

The ban was imposed by Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's cabinet on March 23, ostensibly to safeguard national security during a government crackdown on right-wing Christians. The ban threw the government into confrontation with parliament, whose major bloc opposed the ban.

"We missed you and you missed us because of a decision that was out of our control," Mr. Yazbek said in Arabic on Voice of Lebanon at 11 a.m. (0800 GMT) on the first news flash that ushered in the resumption of regular newscasts.

The station, one of the most widely listened to in Lebanon, was founded by Christians shortly after civil

war broke out in 1975.

Other stations joined the rush back to the airwaves. "The voice has returned to the whole nation," the Sunni Muslim station Voice of the Nation said.

"Freedom is safe," said Elie Saliba, head of news operations at Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International, one of Lebanon's biggest private TV stations.

The unprecedented ban on the more than 150 radio and television stations sparked harsh criticism of Mr. Hariri's government. Lebanon had had the freest media in the Middle East, even during the darkest days of the 1975-90 civil war.

The ban gave the government's radio and television stations a monopoly on locally prepared news casts. But Lebanese could continue to tune into international radio stations and pick up foreign telecasts.

Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri led the move to rescure locally prepared newscasts and pushed a bill through parliament to rescind the cabinet's decision.

Mr. Hariri, faced with mounting accusations that he was trying to suppress free-

dom, had to comply with parliament's decision. President Elias Hrawi signed the bill into law and it took effect Friday after appearing in the official gazette.

Executives of the privately owned stations have endorsed guidelines forbidding reports liable to endanger national security or provoke sectarian dissent that could rekindle the civil war between Christians and Muslims.

Privately owned stations, reflecting Lebanon's broad spectrum of religious and political groups, sprang up without licences during the 15-year civil war.

The ban had threatened hundreds of layoffs in a country still recuperating from the devastation of the civil war. Beirut's 11 daily newspapers were exempt from the restrictions.

Only minutes after station in Lebanon Radio announced that President Hrawi had signed the new bill, most of the country's 50 private television and 100 radio stations aired newscasts.

A committee grouping private media organisations

hailed the lifting of the ban and said in a statement: "Today is a day for freedom and democracy."

The bill calls for temporary lifting of the ban until a law organising the media is passed.

The broadcasters pledged to abide by articles stipulating they should make a clear commitment to the pact of national reconciliation and respect freedom of the press and democracy.

The organisations said they had formed a committee of "self-censorship" that would ensure all private outlets abided by the commitment.

The bill bans broadcasting of items that provoke sectarian rifts or threaten national peace. Violators will be punished in line with the press law.

The government came up with a draft bill last month that for the first time would regulate the private broadcasters, which sprang up during the civil war.

The draft needs parliament's approval and is expected to provoke debate that could go on for months. Parliament is expected to start debating the measure in September.

## Seoul rejects defector's nuclear claim

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea formally dismissed on Friday claims by a North Korean defector that he had developed five nuclear warheads.

Led by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo, top policymakers meeting in Seoul agreed the defector's remarks lacked credibility, a government spokesman told reporters.

"Deputy Prime Minister Lee explained that (the Seoul government) has held thorough consultations with the United States on this matter," he said. "He reaffirmed a position that Kang Myong-Do's statement lacks specific basis."

Mr. Kang, who said he was the only son-in-law of North Korean Prime Minister Kang Song-San, told an officially organised news conference in Seoul on Wednesday that Pyongyang was trying to build missiles to carry five nuclear warheads it had already developed.

North Korea has denied Mr. Kang is related to its premier but Seoul's intelligence service, which organised the news conference, said it had confirmed the relationship.

Seoul officials said they had no evidence North Korea had developed any nuclear bombs, although they believed it possessed 10 to 15 kilograms of plutonium.

This is in line with a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimate that Pyongyang might have one or two atomic bombs, based on its assessment made public earlier this year of how much plutonium the North could have extracted from its five-megawatt reactor during a shutdown in 1989.

CIA Director James Woolsey said last month Pyongyang could have enough plutonium for five more bombs by later this year unless its nuclear programme were halted.

South Korea's intelligence agency came under fire on Friday for producing the defector.

Both ruling and opposition

lawmakers attacked the National Security Planning Agency (NSPA) for mishandling Mr. Kang after his statement — and the timing of the announcement of his defection — caused ripples here and abroad.

"It is shameful to see that the government scrambled to put out the flames caused by Mr. Kang's press conference, which should have been fine-tuned by the NSPA," said Park Jung-Soo of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

"It is a legacy from the past military regime to make public anything that is presumed bad for the North," said Shin Ki-Ha of the opposition Democratic Party.

## Jordan does not face serious hurdles to enter GATT — expert

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan should not have serious problems in gaining entry to the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT), given that the Kingdom's foreign trade policies largely fall in line with the GATT system, according to a Swedish expert.

Aken Linden, special advisor to the director-general of GATT, also said that accession to GATT, which calls for barrier-free imports, would not lead to any major changes in the customs tariff structure of Jordan and any undermining of local industries.

Mr. Linden spent last week here meeting officials and businessmen for a review of the formalities related to Jordan's application to join GATT and the pros and cons of the Kingdom being a member of the international system.

One of the key tasks that the Swedish expert undertook while in Jordan was a review of a draft statement on Jordan's economic and foreign trade policies.

Jordan applied to join GATT in January this year. In March, GATT set up a "working party" headed by Singapore to negotiate Jordan's entry, and the draft

statement is an essential substantial presentation that would be studied by the GATT general council.

Mr. Linden noted that Jordan's exports, which account for around 20 per cent of the Kingdom's gross national product, or its local industry did not stand to suffer as a result of entering GATT.

"You have a high potential for gain while you stand to lose nothing," Mr. Linden told a gathering of Jordanian businessmen at the Chamber of Industry Wednesday evening.

The expert said he could not pinpoint in quantitative terms Jordan's gains, but that there were provisions in the GATT system to protect the Kingdom's economy against the potential flow of imports on a free-market economy approach.

Mr. Linden, who was hosted by the Chamber of Industry and held a round of talks with Finance Minister Sami Gammoh on Thursday, described his discourses here as aimed at "calming the fears" of Jordanian businessmen as to what GATT held in store for them.

GATT was established in 1947 with a view of facilitating free international trade by directly addressing customs tariffs. Since then, it had to take into consideration other barriers such as

quotas, subsidies and intellectual property rights.

After negotiations stretching almost a decade after being launched in Uruguay, GATT members endorsed expanding the scope of their agreement to include services and intellectual property rights last year. They signed the agreement in Marrakesh, Morocco, in April and paved the way for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) which would eventually replace GATT.

Both GATT and WTO involve a huge maze of provisions and counterprovisions that call for barrier-free trade and services. According to Mr. Linden and other experts familiar with the complex arrangement, the key to gain the best individual benefit for a country is a very clear understanding of the document.

GATT now includes 123 countries, and the GATT council is involved in negotiations with 20 other countries on their applications to join the system. Some countries have taken as much as eight years of negotiations to enter GATT.

One of the main problems in Jordan is a fear based on the complexity of GATT that the international agreement could not mean any benefit to a small country like the Kingdom and, if anything, its local

industry could end up on the losing end of the bargain by entering the system.

By and large, the belief among officials and businessmen appears to be that GATT membership is of possible benefit to Jordan's exports, but the Kingdom's local industry could suffer as a result of a free flow of foreign products.

Furthermore, they also feel that Jordan stands to lose a lot by opening up the services sector and the flow of intellectual property rights to barrier-free exchanges but under clear international obligations. They prefer to limit Jordan's involvement at this point in time to trade in goods.

Khalidoun Abu Hassan, head of the Chamber of Industry, said Thursday many of the doubts of businessmen were cleared by their discussions with Mr. Linden. However, he said, the Chamber of Industry kept the option open to invite international private sector experts to advise Jordan on how to go about getting the best advantage from GATT.

"We are not opposed to our government's decision to join GATT as a full member," Mr. Abu Hassan told the gathering at the Chamber of Industry. "But we are concerned that we cooperate with the government to en-

able both the public and private sectors to arrive at a joint denominator to adapt and react to requirements of the agreement in complete unison and understanding for the good of our country."

"We want to see that any transition from any stage to another shall be smooth in implementation, diligent in timing, positive in direction and productive in effect."

Individual countries with peculiar economic features are entitled to secure provisions in their agreements with GATT, which allow for protective measures for such countries under specific conditions and undertakings.

In the case of Jordan, which is implementing an economic restructuring programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Kingdom could seek quota provisions for imports to ensure a stable balance of payments situation, Mr. Linden said.

Similarly, the Kingdom, like other GATT members, could also introduce extra duties to prevent "dumping" — the flow of foreign products into Jordan at a price cheaper than the local market price of their domestic equivalents.

According to Mr. Linden, the accepted level of customs tariffs by GATT is 40 per cent to 50 per cent and in

most cases Jordanian customs duties fall in this range. As such, "I don't anticipate any major changes to Jordan's customs tariff structure of a level that would undermine the local industry," he said.

GATT has no say in internal taxation, he said in response to a question how he viewed the possibility that the government might make up for the possible loss in customs revenues by increasing local taxes.

Customs duties account for around 20 per cent of the local revenues in the budget, and businessmen believe that the slightest decline in customs income to the treasury would be made up through additional taxes.

Jordan could also adopt protective measures with GATT approval to protect its agricultural sector, which is given a special status in the international agreement, he pointed out.

Mr. Linden expected that, at the present pace of negotiations and given the minimum time for internal GATT deliberations and an obligatory two-thirds vote of approval, Jordan's accession to GATT could be completed in about one year to 18 months time.

Covered in the process would be questions raised by GATT members and answers provided by Jordan and spe-

cific conditions attachments to the Kingdom's entry. These could be a general arrangement with all GATT members and on a bilateral basis blessed by the Geneva-based body whenever needed.

Although expected to be replaced by WTO when it comes into being next year, GATT will remain in existence for some years for countries which might want to limit their involvement in international agreements to trade in goods and to allow for ongoing negotiations on GATT entries with some countries to be completed.

Mr. Linden said Thursday after his meeting with the finance minister that he "got the impression" that Jordan might want to apply for direct WTO membership rather than going through the two steps; entry to GATT and then into WTO at a later stage.

But Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times on Friday that he was only trying to "figure out the best and most advantageous way" for Jordan to enter the realm of international trade agreements, and "whether it is better to go direct to WTO or through GATT."

"No definite ideas have been formulated, and the whole issue is under study," the minister said.

## COLUMN

### 2 Turners among 3 pictures stolen in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Two paintings by the English master William Turner and a third by German artist Caspar David Friedrich were stolen from an art gallery here in an overnight raid, police said Friday. Two thieves broke into the gallery shortly after it closed at 10:00 p.m. (2000 GMT) and hid themselves before overpowering the night watchman, a police spokesman said. The pair handcuffed the watchman and covered his head with a hood before locking him in an adjoining room and making off with the paintings, worth millions of dollars. The watchman managed to raise the alarm around 10:30 p.m. Police said Friday they had no leads on the whereabouts of the stolen paintings.

### Ashes of Warsaw uprising leader return to Poland

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The ashes of Gen. Tadeusz Bor-Komorowski, the commander of the heroic 1944 Warsaw uprising against the Nazis, were returned to his homeland to be buried among his fallen soldiers. Gen. Bor-Komorowski, who headed the underground home army resistance movement 50 years ago, lived in exile until 1966, when he died in London and was buried in Gunnersbury Cemetery. On Saturday, his ashes will be put to final rest with state honours at Warsaw's Powazki Cemetery. The ceremony is a part of commemorations of the dramatic insurgency that cost more than 200,000 Polish lives and was ruthlessly crushed by German troops. The commander's call to arms on Aug. 1, 1944 was an effort to liberate Warsaw following five years of German occupation at a moment when Soviet troops were nearing the capital. However, the revolt was doomed to fail. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, ordered his troops to stop and let the insurgents, loyal to Poland's London-based government-in-exile, bleed out. After signing the insurgency capitulation, Gen. Bor-Komorowski was taken prisoner of war by the Germans and after World War II settled in London, where he was active among Polish émigré circles. He never returned to his homeland. During Poland's 44 years as part of the Soviet Bloc, some Moscow-backed Polish politicians considered Gen. Bor-Komorowski a "war criminal" who sent thousands to their death in what they considered a political game. Efforts to bring the commander's ashes to Poland were begun after the fall of communism in 1989.

### Indian social groups welcome sex test ban

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian social activists rejoiced after parliament's lower house passed a law to ban misuse of medical tests which have led to thousands of abortions of female foetuses. "I think it is an important step which will be a tool in the hands of social action groups," said Mira Shiva of the Voluntary Health Association of India. "We have been campaigning against this since 1982." The Lok Sabha, or lower house, voted unanimously to regulate amniocentesis, a fluid test, and ultrasound tests. Deputies said they expect the upper house to clear the law without a hitch. The tests, which are meant to track pregnancy disorders, have been used to detect and abort girl children, widely considered to be a social liability in India where parents must spend huge sums in dowries to get their daughters married. Ultrasound tests are also widely used in China for the same purpose. "Dowry is to a large extent the problem in what someone called demographic fundamentalism," Mr. Shiva said. "Sex tests are a part of our social fabric of prejudice," said Communist deputy Malini Bhattacharya. The bill orders compulsory registering of genetic counselling centres, which will face closure if there are complaints of abuse. It stops doctors from disclosing the sex of unborn children and advertising sex tests.